

over Palestinian safety

Diplomats suggested sending a second, more wide-reaching U.N. mission to the area to follow up on the inquiries of the last month's mission.

"We are very much concerned about the fate of the Palestinians," Perez de Cuellar told reporters after briefing the Security Council about the visit of his envoy, Jean-Claude Aime, to the occupied territories.

Perez de Cuellar declined to give details of the report, but diplomats said he stated that Palestinians were concerned about midnight raids and rash action by Israeli police and

special assistant to the secretary-general.

Perez de Cuellar, however, indicated the report would not be issued as a written document.

Arab diplomats called for an international, U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference to protect Palestinians. They have said that if the Security Council does not act on behalf of the Palestinians, they will request a rare session of the General Assembly.

But Security Council consultations Friday were inconclusive, and there was no immediate statement about Arab

Aran diplomats are seeking to have Aime's report, which was delivered orally, put in

Soviet politburo seen to endorse Gorbachev victory

The party daily Pravda, said the new policy-making Central Committee elected Friday had deliberately decided to exclude top government figures and officials with key state roles from the politburo.

Ivan Frolov, editor-in-chief of the party daily Pravda, said the new policy-making Central Committee elected Friday had deliberately decided to exclude top government figures and officials with key state roles from the politburo.

bachev adviser Alexander Yakovlev, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and traditionalist Yegor K. Ligachev.

Frolov announced that the new politburo will include himself, the heads of party organisations in the Soviet republics, Gorbachev

— Yuri Prokofiev, the Moscow Communist Party chief, says

"This serves to underline that the party is totally breaking with the situation in the past when it was totally incorporated into the command-and-administer system and was at the top of the hierarchy," Frolov told a news conference.

"Now the party will be competing with other social and political forces and seeking to establish its predominance mainly through an ideological and political struggle," the Pravda editor, saluted to the new politburo.

Frolov afterwards told reporters that the politburo would meet only once a month instead of the usual once a week.

Vaulting into the politburo, the party's leading body that was doubled in size to 24 members, were the party leaders from the

and deputy party leader Vladimir A. Ivashko, as well as:

— Yuri Prokofiev, the Moscow Communist Party chief. Prokofiev is known as a moderate reformer.

— Gennady Yanayev, who became head of the Central Council of Trade Unions last year after labour unrest began spreading through the country. He will be responsible for international affairs.

— Galina Smeyonova, editor-in-chief of "Peasant Woman" magazine. She will be responsible for women's issues.

Gorbachev acknowledged that the party's days of monolithic power were over.

"We're on the threshold of a multiparty system. I don't see anything frightening in that," he

15 Soviet republics as well as several moderate reformers and officials little known outside their own republics, Gorbachev told CBS News Friday. Gorbachev was critical of prominent liberals who quit the

15 Soviet republics as well as several moderate reformers and officials little known outside their areas of specialty.

Dropped from the politburo were Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov and Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov, as well as Gor-

told CBS News Friday.

Gorbachev was critical of prominent liberals who quit the party, including maverick Boris Yeltsin and the mayors of Moscow and Leningrad.

But he acknowledged that such defections point to a "gap" between the people and the party.

British minister resigns

LONDON (R) — British Trade

Four ships chartered by the West German and Italian governments picked up the refugees in Durrës, Albania, early Friday.

Four ships chartered by West German and Italian governments picked up the refugees in Durres, Albania, early Friday and took them to Brindisi, Italy.

The French Foreign Ministry announced Saturday that the ferry Orient Star, which had been part of the sea evacuation, would dock in Marseille Sunday and discharge its cargo of 544 Albanian refugees. They would be sent to reception centres in France.

Hungarian Radio reported that

and industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley resigned Saturday over anti-European remarks he made in a magazine interview, a government spokesman said.

Ridley caused a furor when he told the British magazine Spectator that West Germany was on to take over Europe and that for Britain to give up sovereignty to the European Community (EC) was like surrendering to Adolf Hitler.

In his anti-European outburst, Ridley also offended the French

by describing them as Germany's
(Continued on page 3)

by describing them as Germany's
(Continued on page 3)

Irish envoy continues mission in Beirut Reports conflict over release of hostage

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Pro-Iranian sources said Saturday they were still confident a Western hostage in Lebanon would be freed but could not agree on when.

"Things are going the right way... it is only a matter of time," said one senior source, a week after Iran's official news agency IRNA reported that a captive, probably a European, could soon be freed.

With Irishman Brian Keenan widely tipped as the likeliest candidate, Irish envoy Adrian McDaid spent a third day touring the Lebanese capital in search of hard information.

But another pro-Iranian security source said the release could take some time because Dublin had still "not made its position clear." The source declined to amplify the remark.

McDaid Saturday met Ali Hammoud, the Syrian intelligence officer in charge of west Beirut's security.

Syrian soldiers guarding Hammoud's headquarters at the sea-side Ramlet Beida district did not allow news reporters and photographers to wait for the Irish diplomat.

McDaid also met with Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

"All I can say is that I had a very interesting discussion with Prime Minister Hoss... I thought it was of importance that I talk to him and explain to him the reason why I'm here and brief him on the situation," McDaid told reporters after the 30-minute meeting.

He refused to answer questions about the outcome of his talks with Hammoud.

However, McDaid stressed that "I said yesterday that we

were hopeful and today I'm still hopeful." He did not elaborate on the remark.

Asked for how long would he be staying in Lebanon, McDaid said: "Probably for a week or a bit longer. I don't know."

A source at the Irish consulate in west Beirut, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP McDaid "doesn't have other scheduled meetings with public figures for today and tomorrow (Sunday)."

The consulate in west Beirut's Verdun street opened exceptionally Saturday for McDaid to "maintain his contacts," the source added.

The Irish diplomat, who is based in Baghdad, flew in Thursday.

Keenan, 39, an English language teacher, was kidnapped in west Beirut April 11, 1986. No group has claimed to hold him.

However, former American hostage Frank Reed, the latest captive to be released April 30, said he saw Keenan two days before his release and said he had spent almost three years in the same house or room with him.

A group called Islamic Dawn announced Reed's release.

The Irish consulate source said earlier McDaid was "trying to find out from Brigadier Hammoud whether the Syrians had any information on the hostage release."

McDaid Friday visited IRNA's office in west Beirut to inquire about reliability of the agency's sources.

IRNA's resident correspondent Mousayeb Naimi said: "We stressed that our sources are reliable and we explained to Mr.

McDaid that the hostage to be released will probably be a European national."

"He asked us about the reports that said Keenan will be released and we explained to him that our report did not name the hostage," Naimi added.

The 16 Western hostages held mainly by pro-Iranian underground Shi'ite factions are Keenan, six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss and an Italian.

McDaid, contacted at the Bristol hotel in west Beirut early in the day, refused to inform the media of his activities.

"I have a job to do. I'm not going to inform the press of my meetings in advance," he said.

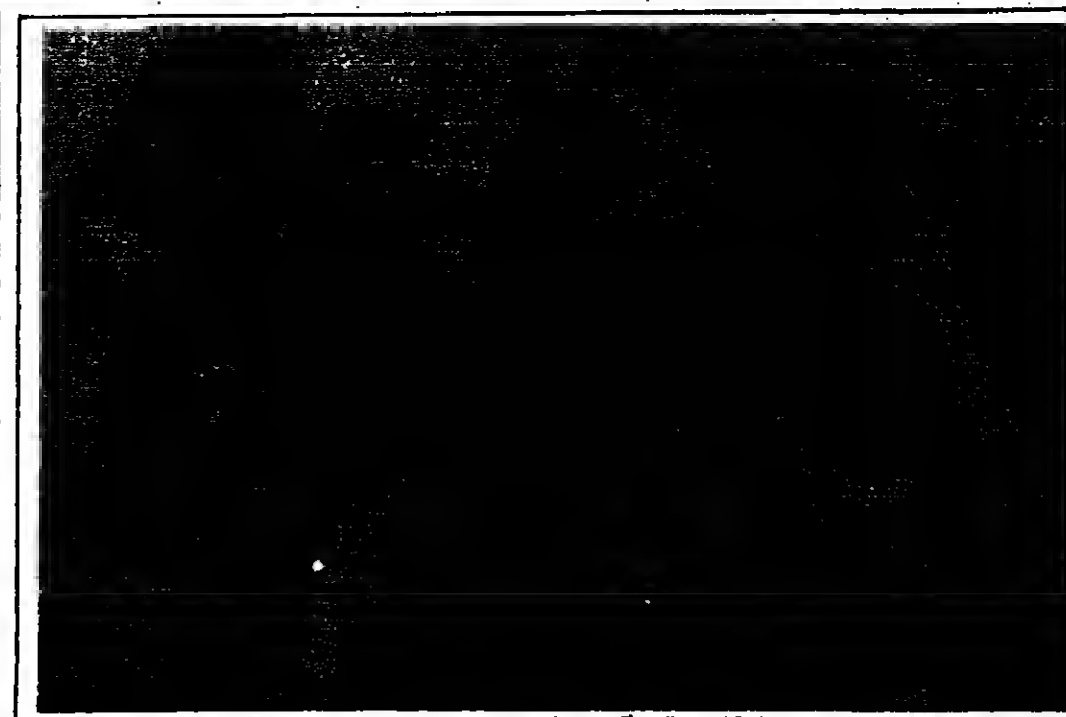
In addition to visiting the IRNA office, McDaid spent his day Friday at the Irish consulate waiting for word from "anybody who feels he has something solid that might lead to a happy resolution."

However, the Irish consulate source said McDaid "did not receive any calls from people who have inside information on the hostages' issue."

With Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in Egypt, sources do not expect a hostage release before their return to Damascus.

Assad and Sharaa arrived in Egypt Saturday for the summit meeting with President Hosni Mubarak.

Syria has been instrumental in previous hostage releases in Lebanon.



'TENT CITIES': Many Israelis have moved to makeshift newcomers' tents, thus forcing regular "tent cities" and protests that higher rents have tenants out of their homes because of inability to pay. Some Israelis say the government

U.N. urges compromise, separate talks in Nicosia

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday called for a fresh round of separate discussions with the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in Nicosia.

"The coming period will be of critical importance," he said in a written report to the Security Council. "The time has come to stop mutual recriminations and to concentrate efforts on promoting reconciliation."

Perez de Cuellar called on both sides to compromise and show moderation.

He said there has been "a general deterioration of the atmosphere" in recent months and an increasing sense of frustration "because of the present lack of progress."

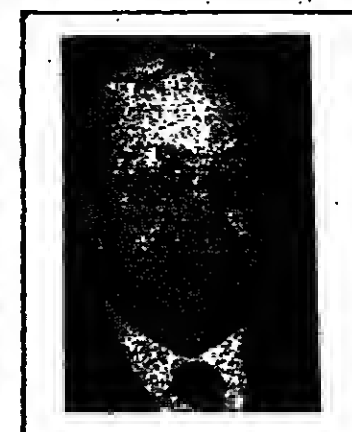
The U.N. chief said it was "important that the two leaders meet with me as soon as possible to agree on an outline and to launch the negotiations of an overall agreement."

He proposed holding separate discussions in Nicosia to prepare the ground. No dates were proposed.

Perez de Cuellar launched his peace initiative for Cyprus in talks with both sides in Geneva in August 1988.

He last held talks in March in New York with Cypriot President Georges Vassiliou, recognised as president of the island, and Rauf Denkash, leader of the break-away Turkish Cypriot community in the north.

At that meeting, he said, "conceptual difficulties emerged from



Javier Perez de Cuellar

the very outset." He did not elaborate, but apparently was referring to Denkash's call for self-determination by Turkish Cypriots, which could be interpreted as a push for separate statehood. After that, the talks collapsed.

The Security Council asked Perez de Cuellar to resume negotiations.

He called on the two communities Friday "to convey to each other, through their words and deeds, a clear message that promotes mutual confidence."

U.N. troops were sent to Cyprus in 1964 to maintain peace between the Greek majority and Turkish minority. In 1974, Turkish troops invaded and still occupy the northern part of the island. U.N. forces patrol the "green line" between the two communities.

The Greek Cypriot government, which is recognised by the United Nations, seeks the withdrawal of Turkish troops and says Cypriots should be able to buy land anywhere on the island.

But Turkey insists on guarantees of the rights of Turkish residents.

In the next separate talks in Nicosia, Perez de Cuellar said, both will be asked their positions on key issues to create an outline for a settlement.

Once a mutually agreeable outline is within reach, he said, both leaders would be invited to meet him to finish it and start negotiating an overall agreement.

'Infectious wound'

The secretary general of the Council of Europe, Catherine Lalumiere, has said the division of Cyprus was a wound which could infect other parts of Europe.

Lalumiere told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to Cyprus she had been shocked and saddened by the wall dividing Nicosia.

"It is a scandal in the strongest sense of the word. In today's Europe, such barriers are inconceivable," she said.

"If we don't do something about this abyss, it risks spreading to the rest of Europe and becoming like gangrene."

She said the Council of Europe, which includes Cyprus, Turkey and Greece among its 23 member states, supported efforts by Perez de Cuellar to resolve the problem.

Iran says it plans case against S. Arabia

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's top judge Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Yazdi said Friday Tehran would lodge a complaint against Saudi Arabia with international courts for the death of 1,426 pilgrims in the Hajj tunnel tragedy.

A Saudi Arabian newspaper, Al Riyadh, said in an editorial Friday that Tehran was partly to blame for the stampede because fears of a possible Iranian attack made people panic.

"Iran's precedents and intimidation of pilgrims, starting with smuggling explosives and ending with trying to explode bridges near the Mecca mosque, made pilgrims feel in danger of any incident instigated by Iran," the paper said.

Tehran Radio quoted Yazdi as saying: "Unfortunately, international organisations and human rights bodies have approached this great calamity with indifference, and Islamic governments, too, by merely condemning the actions of the Saudi regime, have passed over the issue."

Saudi Arabia has described the tragedy earlier this month, in which thousands of pilgrims were crushed or suffocated in a 600-metre tunnel, as an act of God for

which it could not be blamed. "I am busy drawing up a basic and legal complaint to international courts against the ruling Saudi regime," the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted Yazdi as saying.

Saudi gesture

Ten Turkish pilgrims seriously injured in the tunnel tragedy returned to Ankara Friday aboard an aircraft provided by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

A further 22 sick and injured pilgrims arrived home aboard a Turkish airliner. About 550 Turks were crushed or suffocated in the tunnel near Mecca 11 days ago.

Health Minister Haili Savgin, who travelled on the Turkish plane, said it was not clear exactly how many Turks died or were injured.

"According to our findings, some pilgrims who have been reported dead are in fact alive. It will take time to determine the exact number of living and dead," he told reporters.

The Turkish parliament will debate the tragedy next Thursday at the request of opposition parties.

Taipei resigned to break in ties with S. Arabia

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's foreign minister said Saturday relations with Saudi Arabia had reached their lowest point and there was little hope of preventing Riyadh switching diplomatic recognition to China.

Fredrick Chien told parliament his ministry would do everything to hold on to formal ties with Riyadh but the prospect of success was slim.

Taipei's relations with Saudi Arabia, its only diplomatic ally in the Middle East and its major supplier of oil, had "reached their worst point," he said.

He said Saudi Arabia was planning to send an envoy to Taiwan for talks on the matter, but declined to give details.

He also declined to say how Taiwan would respond if Riyadh switched recognition to Beijing. He said only that if that happened "I would take full responsibility for it."

Chien said Taiwan would maintain trade and economic ties with the kingdom.

Asked by legislators whether

ties with Riyadh were reaching a breaking point, Chien's reply said: "Yes."

Only 28 countries have diplomatic relations with Taipei, recognising the claim of the Taiwanese nationalists to be the "government of all China."

Taiwan has been technically at war with China since the nationalists fled to the island in 1949 following defeat by the Chinese Communists in civil war.

Signs of a diplomatic break with Riyadh came with a visit to Beijing this week by Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, Saudi envoy to Washington.

Taiwan has scored a number of diplomatic victories over the past year, establishing formal ties with six countries, including Granada, Lesotho and Liberia.

Analysts said China was trying to hit back against Taipei's aggressive diplomatic push.

"Saudi Arabia is becoming Beijing's first target in its counter-offensive against our diplomatic push," said Lu Ya-Li, professor of politics at National Taiwan University.

Churches alarmed over exodus of Christians from Mideast

LIMASSOL (AP) — The Middle East's Christian prelates have voiced alarm at the exodus of Christians from the region at a time when hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are expected to flood into Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

"Middle East emigration could not be seen in the light of the current crisis created by Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, the occupied territories and East Jerusalem," the executive committee of the Middle East Council of Churches said in a statement Friday.

The committee also blamed Israeli human rights violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and spreading Islamic fundamentalism for the exodus.

The committee was issued after a three-day meeting of the 24-member committee. It consists of senior representatives of the region's four main Christian sects, the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Anglican-Protestants.

"While emigration is a matter of deep concern, it is symptomatic of deeper causes which can be traced to the political, economic and human rights situation in the Middle East," the committee noted.

It added that it was consequently necessary "to join with other religious and non-religious organisations, as well as governments, to work together to increase awareness among people

for the concern for human rights."

The committee reiterated the council's support "for the restoration of the rights of the Christian community in Jerusalem, in the context of the realisation of justice and peace in Palestine-Israel as a whole."

It also repeated a call last January by the council's general assembly for the right of the Palestinians to establish a state of their own.

The concern over the accelerating Christian exodus coincided with a survey of Christian Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza that showed 2,160 Christians were emigrating from those areas every year.

The survey was carried out by the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research in Bethlehem.

Samir Kafaty, the Anglican bishop of Jerusalem, said during the executive meeting that the wave of emigration from the area "is not a peculiarly Christian problem."

"But we are a minority and it's more visible and noticeable in our case."

Emigration by Christian and Muslim Palestinians was being spurred "by the massive Soviet-Jewish emigration which supercedes any other political problem," he told a news conference Friday.

"Israel previously pushed people out and now with the coming

of the Soviet Jews, there's a new threat for taking over the place not only of the Christians but also of the Muslim population," he added.

It is believed there are only 45,000 Christians among the 1.8 million Palestinians who live in Jerusalem and the Israeli-occupied territories. Another 91,000 Arab Christians live in Israel.

The council estimates that the total Christian population in the Middle East is 14 million.

Kafaty said it was necessary "to attack the cause of emigration and not the symptoms, and the cause is the violation of the human rights of the people."

But he admitted that the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the region was also driving Christians out.

"We are in an area where there are religious states and we must look at this aspect also as one of the reasons," Kafaty said.

But he noted that "we cannot blame" the Christian exodus on "religious persecution."

Gabriel Habib, the council's secretary-general, said the lack of democracy in much of the Arab World was also a factor.

"There is a lack of freedom, a lack of democracy and there is intellectual terrorism. This applies not only to Christians but to everybody," he added.

The committee meeting was the first since its election in January by the council's general assembly, which meets every four years.

Bahrain to export dhows worldwide

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain's traditional dhows will soon hit world markets starting with the United States, a tourism official disclosed Saturday.

Ahmad Amin Al Khaja, superintendent of tourism exhibitions, said that the export plan was part of a master scheme to salvage a dying industry, already classified by Bahrain as a handicraft.

Dhows, low-sided sloops which the Gulf has used from the earliest days of seafaring to plough the waters, are hand-made wooden boats similar to the ancient Egyptian and Greek reed boats.

These boats provided the bread and butter of sea-captains and dhow-builders for generations. Sea-captains used these single-masted boats for trade, for deep-sea fishing, pearl-diving and cruising, or to carry passengers across the Gulf, especially during the Hajj pilgrimage season to Mecca.

Dhow business in Bahrain almost sopped after the inauguration of the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway in 1986, following the virtual end of pearling that once flourished here. The dhow industry is now striving for existence.

"We're taking steps towards helping balance the loss," Khaja told the Associated Press. He said the Bahrain Tourism Projects Company, which will handle the exports, has also begun renting dhows to companies, banks, schools and government offices in Bahrain for 150 dinars (\$450) for eight hours.

"Soon this offer will be open to the public," Khaja said.

Elaborating on the export plans, he said worldwide promotion campaign were under way, and that responses came from Australia as well as the United States. But he refused to specify the interested parties.

The seaworthy boats, made practically only of teak planking and hemp, in Bahrain cost between 40,000 to 80,000 dinars

(\$120,000 - 240,000), he noted.

"Some people are expected to buy these boats because they are interested collectors of ancient skills and antiques," Khaja said.

"Others will actually use them for fishing and cruising."

The boats can carry 60 people at a time. They are strongly built and can last for almost a 100 years. Builders use wood imported from India and Nepal, using simple non-electric tools.

Khaja noted that it took 1½ years to complete a large dhow, and six months for a small one, needing six builders to spend hours building it.

The more recently built dhows, and probably the ones that will be ordered for export, are well-equipped, with life-savers, radios, compasses and other equipment.

The dhow weighs 10 tons, sometimes reaching 50 tons, depending on the size. The length of the sail is 1½ times longer than the dhow itself.

Mummies to be checked for AIDS-type viruses

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch researchers say they will search for traces of AIDS-type viruses in ancient Egyptian mummies.

A research team will use a recently developed cloning process to study the mummies' genetic makeup.

The team, led by Dr. Jaap Goudsmit of the Amsterdam Medical Centre and Dr. Rutger Perizonius of Utrecht University Hospital, will extract genetic chains from samples of skin and bone tissue taken from mummified humans and animals.

"The idea will be to look for DNA sequences comparable to the sequence left by AIDS-infection," said Dr. Jan Gelen, a biochemist working on the research team.

The tissue analyses are scheduled to begin early next year.

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is a genetic structure found in every living cell that contains hereditary information.

The so-called polymerase chain reaction technique used by the

researchers can copy and magnify the DNA chain remaining in a cell after death and permit its detailed study.

The technique, developed two years ago by Swedish scientist Svante Paabo, led to the discovery announced last week that a British sailor had died of AIDS in 1959, 23 years before the disease was recorded in Britain, according to a report in the Times of London.

"It is possible that the AIDS virus could have existed for thousands of years in another, non-dangerous form," said Gelen.

AIDS is a fatal disease transmitted primarily by sexual intercourse and sharing of infected syringes.

Goudsmit, a biologist, and Perizonius, an archaeologist, already have begun testing tissue samples from mummified humans, cats, and monkeys

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koma
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary
18:10	Local programme
19:20	Programme review
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:45	Local programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Cartoons
18:15	Documentary
19:30	News in French
19:35	French varieties
19:40	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:50	Hey Dad
21:10	The Nuclear Age
22:00	News in English
22:20	Hunter
PRAYER TIMES	
04:40	Fajr
05:31	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:48	Maghrib
21:20	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetich, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Teremonta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 623326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Salameh Al Daboushi	776751
Dr. Majed Abu Sweich	881635
Dr. Younsf Rashid	896301
Dr. Adel Amman	812148
Pirsa pharmacy	622220
Fendous pharmacy	778536
Al Asma pharmacy	637025
Natroukh pharmacy	625672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644943
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Muhammad Ta'ani	(—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ghassan Al Fakhri	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63023
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	771111
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	680100
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636361

Officials deny plan to build nuclear plant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday flatly rejected a local press report that Jordan might build a nuclear power-generating plant in the Aqaba area.

"There is no substance to the report whatsoever," said an official spokesman for the ministry. "It is totally unfounded."

A JEA spokesman echoed the same denial. "It is in fact news to us," he said. "We are as surprised as you are," he told the Jordan Times over the phone. "We are trying to figure out where the so-called 'leak' came from."

Asked whether the authorities had conducted a study on the feasibility of building a nuclear power plant, both spokesmen said they were not aware of the existence of such a study.

According to the controversial report, which appeared in an Arabic-language daily, the presumed study found that the project would cost as much as Jordan's gross national income for the next 14 years. Therefore, the report said, "it is inevitable that major foreign governments would have to contribute to the project."

Energy experts also dismissed the story. "Jordan's present requirement of electricity warrants a capacity of not more than 530 to 550 megawatts," an expert told the Jordan Times. "The Kingdom has an installed capacity of slightly over 1,000 megawatts and it is inconceivable that it would embark on a nuclear power plant project in the foreseeable future."

Economists said for any nuclear power plant to be economically feasible the minimum co-ownership requirement should be 2,000 megawatts. "Jordan's requirement is not expected to exceed more than 800 megawatt installed capacity even by the year 2,000 one economist said.

3 dead, 45 injured in 4 months in festive gun fire

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday reported the death of three persons and the injury of 45 others in the first four months of 1990 in Amman and nine other towns in the Kingdom; the deaths resulted from firing arms at weddings and other joyful occasions.

Of these incidents, 13 were in Amman, nine in Irbid, nine in the Balqa area while the rest occurred in Karak, Maan, Zarqa, Badia, Aqaba, Tafleh and Madaba, the PSD statement said.

Statistics showed that 34 of a total of 57 firing incidents during this period were caused by young people, aged between 18 and 27, and that the majority of the victims were below 18 years of age, the PSD statement said.

Those injured or killed in these incidents were hit by stray bullets and most of the weapons seized after the incidents proved that they were unlicensed, the statement added.

The statement noted that last year's total incidents amounted to 224, resulting in the death of 28 persons and the injury of 192 others. Most of last year's incidents occurred in Irbid, which accounted for 29.5 per cent of the total number of the incidents; followed by Amman which had 22.8 per cent share of the total number.

The statement said that out of the 207 people involved in firing incidents last year nine were females, aged between 18 and 37.

The PSD statement said that most of the firing incidents are reported during the summer when most of the weddings occur and when expatriates return for a family reunion or vacation in Jordan.

It said that apart from firing at weddings or when male habies are born, firing often occurred when youths were reported trying to clean guns or tampering with them.

According to the law, anyone caught firing bullets can be jailed for a maximum of three months, and anyone possessing a gun without an official licence can be imprisoned for up to one year.

The martial court used to deal with cases involving firing of weapons, but since January 1990 firing cases have been referred to civilian courts.

According to the PSD statement, the host of the wedding party will be held responsible for the firing incidents should he fail to warn his guests of the need to refrain from firing weapons in expression of joy.

It said that stricter monitoring of weddings will be maintained and violators of the law will be prosecuted.

House rejects move to abolish Ministry of Higher Education

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday rejected two amendments proposed by the government to higher education laws on the grounds that they fail to ensure the independence of higher education.

Both amendments, to two separate laws, would have reversed two laws enacted by the government of former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai which in 1989 established the Ministry of Higher Education and abolished the universities' boards of trustees.

The first proposed amendment to the universities' law sought to reestablish the universities' boards of trustees; the second amendment would have abolished the Ministry of Higher Education and transferred its duties to the Ministry of Education. Both amendments were rejected by the House legal and education committees.

The debate on the House floor Saturday turned into one among the members of the two committees. While most of those speaking during the session agreed that the proposed amendments did not ensure the independence of the universities, many wanted to retain the Ministry of Higher Education.

Deputy Mohammad Abu Faris, rapporteur of the legal committee, after reading the committee's decision, objected that the boards of trustees, as proposed, are "government-appointed, which turns the universities into government-run institutions."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran countered by reminding the House of the constitutional division of authority, implying the government is the authority that can name the members of the board of trustees. Badran hinted that universities, if completely independent from government, cannot ensure proper funding.

He said that he was against privatising higher education. He said that the fees of the proposed private university in Zarqa would be very high for students to afford.

"Private universities fees will be as high as JD 1,500," the prime minister said. Fees at the four state-run universities range between JD 380 a year for students of the humanities to around JD 700 for science students.

Badran, chiding deputies for "opposing just for the sake of opposition," stressed that establishing trustee boards would ensure competition for better education between universities.

Deputy Taher Al Masri, the chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee and foreign minister in Rifai's cabinet, agreed with the prime minister. Masri, however, asserted that higher education in Jordan was "beginning to weaken and that cannot be rectified unless we ensure the independence of the universities."

Masri said he believed that trustee boards would ensure universities' independence. He did not agree to abolish the Ministry of Higher Education. Chairman of the House Education Committee Thounqan Hindawi said there was

contradiction in the proposed amendment. Hindawi, who served as deputy prime minister and minister of education in Rifai's government said, "the authority granted to the Council of Higher Education contradicts the objectives of the law."

Replying Badran's accusation, legal committee Chairman Hussein Mjally stressed "none of us is opposing just for the sake of opposition." Mjally, a lawyer and ex-president of the Jordan Bar Association, countered that past trustee boards were never independent and could not solicit solid donations.

Mjally said the proposed amendments was "not satisfactory and freedom of education was not even mentioned."

The House earlier listened to the verdict of the Higher Council concerning the government decision to retire the president of the Audit Bureau, Dr. Hashem Al Dabbas.

According to the constitution, the retirement of the Audit Bureau president must be approved by the Lower House of Parliament when it convenes.

However, the Higher Council ruled that since the subject was not on the agenda of the House during its current extraordinary session, the House cannot discuss the matter unless a Royal Decree was issued adding the issue to the House agenda.

The Higher Council is composed of three members of the Upper House of Parliament, five judges from the Court of Cassation and the speaker of the Upper House as president.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday tours the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre after inaugurating it (Petra photo)

Queen inaugurates handicrafts centre

SALT (J.T.) — The formal opening of the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre (SHTC) — a joint project carried out by the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) and the Italian government — took place Saturday in a celebration attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor and other dignitaries.

The Queen unveiled a marble plaque at the outset of the celebration, declaring the training centre officially open.

The Italian government provided some JD 600,000 towards constructing and equipping the centre and financing the cost of maintaining the services of the Italian instructors. SDC provided JD 200,000 over a two-year period to finance the construction of certain facilities and the purchase of equipment and furniture, according to a statement by Noor Hussein Foundation (NHF).

which is entrusted with supervising the centre's management and operations.

According to an Italian specialist who briefed the Queen on the various parts of the centre, trainees can be trained in printing on silk, and works in ceramics, dyeing and textiles.

The Queen toured different sections and watched trainees and their instructors carrying out their tasks.

Later the Queen was briefed by the project director, Arwa Al Tal, on plans to introduce other handicrafts like jewellery, metal work, glass, restoration of archaeological sites in Salt and traditional crafts.

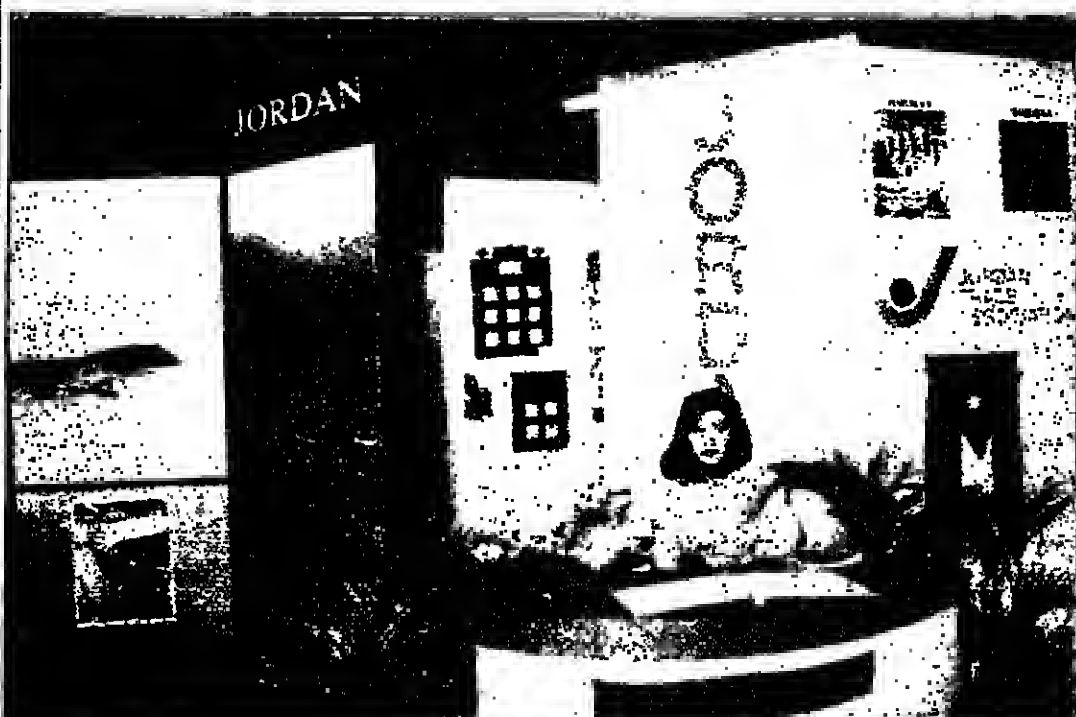
NHF said that work on the project started in 1987, following an agreement for assistance from the Italian government reached in

1986. The centre, the Queen was told, runs training courses for three-year periods, offering training to 60 trainees simultaneously. The trainees must have completed their preparatory school education and successfully passed an entrance examination.

NHF said that the centre is designed to create a new generation of skilled craftsmen and to provide trainers and instructors for the various trades.

The centre's activities are conducted under the supervision of Italian specialists; they entail three-year training courses for the students and in-service programmes for trainers.

Following the opening ceremony the Queen visited the Salt Cultural Centre and the Folklore Museum inspecting items depicting national heritage and pictures reflecting life in Salt.



The Jordanian pavilion at the Jakarta fair (JTA photo)

Jordanian firms scored success in Indonesian fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian firms and companies which took part in a month-long fair held in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta have found it successful and concluded deals to sell Jordanian products in the Indonesian market.

According to an announcement by Halim Abu Rahmeh, executive director of the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), 18 Jordanian companies from Jordan took part in the fair along with Indonesia, Pakistan, China, Taiwan and Vietnam and the annual event marked a success for Jordan which exhibited its local products to the Indonesian market, said Abu Rahmeh upon return from Jakarta at the end of the fair Friday.

Jordanian firms displayed samples of pharmaceutical products, carpet, drip irrigation equipment, plastic pipes, perambulators, fertilisers, gas stoves, potash and phosphate, attracting visitors in large numbers, Abu Rahmeh said.

He said that Jordan's participation aimed at familiarising visitors and Indonesian merchants with Jordan's national products and at offering the chance for Indonesian and Jordanian businessmen to meet and discuss trade prospects.

"The Indonesian market is vast and has a great potential for Jordanian products which are of high and competitive quality," Abu Rahmeh said.

"JTA organised Jordan's participation in the fair and together with the participating companies shared the cost of the Jordanian pavilion which stood at about \$50,000," Abu Rahmeh added.

"Some of the Jordanian businessmen succeeded in concluding contracts with Indonesian agents to market Jordanian products in Indonesia," said Abu Rahmeh who was optimistic over the prospect of bartering Jordanian products for Indonesian raw materials such as a wood, paper, iron and chemicals.

The Indonesian corporation responsible for fairs has extended an invitation to Jordan to take part in an international industrial fair to be held in Jakarta in March 1991," Abu Rahmeh announced.

The JTA, which was established at the beginning of 1989, aims at developing and expanding exports, identifying new markets for national products, providing services and information facilities to local companies that seek foreign markets.

According to Abu Rahmeh, the Jordanian companies were successful, being on a par with 500 strong, competitive companies and business firms from the participating nations.

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Bakeries alarmed over work permits

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A long-standing dispute between the Public Bakers Union and the Ministry of Labour over work permit fees for foreign labour has come to the forefront for the fourth time in three years in what unionists call the "fight for the price of bread."

While three consecutive ministers of labour agreed to overrule a standing law which requires the payment of JD 100 for every foreign worker employed by a bakery owner, the current ministry, headed by Minister Qasem Obaidat has decided to uphold the law and insist on the payment.

Bakery unionists claim that with a ceiling on the price of bread, as imposed by the Ministry of Supply, bakery owners will "go broke" if the law is applied.

"We have to uphold the law, which in this case requires the payment of JD 100 per foreign worker every year," said Obaidat.

Obaidat contends that if the union wants the law changed it can lobby with the house of representatives and the judiciary. "If the law changes we will apply it, but if we agree to heed the law or make an exception then we will open the door to members of other professions to ask for the same exemptions," Obaidat pointed out.

The minister said that he had given the bakeries a programme from July 20 to Oct. 20 to pay their workers' fees in four stages to alleviate their financial burden.

Meanwhile, the head of the Public Bakers Union Abdul Ilah Al Hamawi argued that by the time the law is changed Jordanian bakery owners will be "in debt over their head" and many bakeries will be forced to close.

"We came to an understanding with the ministry in 1987 when the foreign workers' permits cost JD 30 and the ministry agreed to cancel the fee all together," Hamawi told the Jordan Times.

Bakery unionists argue that since bread is a basic food staple with fixed prices, the government should make special regulations for bakery employees.

"Our problem with Jordanian employees is that no Jordanian wants to work in a bakery; it seems many would rather be out of work," said Hamawi.

He argues that "it is not up to bakery owners to change the mentality of Jordanians who seem to think it shameful to work in a bakery."

The working conditions of bakery employees are not enticing to many Jordanians according to Hamawi.

The shift involves 12 hour work, seven days a week at less than JD 3 per day or JD 84 a month with no vacation.

The threat of economic "unviability" has already spread panic among many bakery owners according to unionists.

Out of the 300 registered bakeries in Amman Government 60 are up for sale, according to union officials.

Bakery officials claim that the welfare of the country's 700 registered bakeries is at stake. Officials at the Ministry of Labour say that adaptation by the entire community to new economic realities is necessary.

Since the issue was discussed with the current minister four months ago bakery officials say that they have attempted to lure Jordanians into the bakery trade but to no avail.

"We were unsuccessful in tempting unemployed Jordanians into our bakeries to work," Hamawi said.

"We will continue to try to change the law and no matter what we are going to have to continue making bread for the people. We have no intention of becoming like other countries where the public sector has taken over from the private sector," said Hamawi referring to countries in the Middle East where people have to stand in line to buy bread from the early hours of the morning.

"We have no intention of insisting that the price of bread be raised nor do we care to start bread riots, but we would like the officials to meet us part of the way," concluded Hamawi referring to bread riots in Tunisia and Algeria which were no the verge of destabilising central governments as a result of a raise in bread prices.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zura displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibitions of ceramics, paintings by Gastone Primoni at Alla Art Gallery.
- Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- Photo exhibition entitled "Jordan — Mysteries and Shadows" by Omani student Mohammad Bin Mahdi Bin Jawad at Yarmouk University.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- Concert by the Turkish Mevlevi Sema Group (7:30-9:00 p.m.) and the Azerbaijan State Ballet (9:30-11:00 p.m.) at the South Theatre.
- Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Pakistani folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- Poets and poetry at Artens Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
- Concert by Gary Burton Jazz Quintet at Artens Steps (9:30 - 11:00 p.m.)

British minister resigns over remarks

(Continued from page 1).

poodies. He later retracted the remarks but some colleagues in the ruling Conservative Party joined the opposition in calling on him to quit to avoid embarrassing the government further.

Ridley, 61, returned from a visit to Hungary Friday night and spoke to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by telephone on Saturday for 15 minutes.

During the morning it appeared that he was not inclined to resign and opinion polls in two popular newspapers showed a good deal of support for him.

Critics said Ridley, one of Thatcher's closest political allies, could hardly continue to represent British trade interests after up-

sting key trading partners in Europe. It has to be thwarted."

"This rushed take-over by the Germans on the worst possible basis, with the French behaving like poodies to the Germans, is absolutely intolerable," he told the editor of the right-wing Spectator.

Ridley, a viscount's son whose aristocratic indifference to criticism is notorious among colleagues, then switched his attack to the European Community where Britain has been accused of being isolationist.

"When I look at the institutions to which it is proposed that sovereignty is to be handed over, I'm against," he said.

"I'm not against giving up sovereignty in principle, but not to this lot. You might just as well give it to Adolf Hitler, frankly."



Shidhi Jhoomer dance performed by the Pakistani troupe at the Jerash Festival

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف اليومية العربية المستقلة المنشورة بالانجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Limit the pain

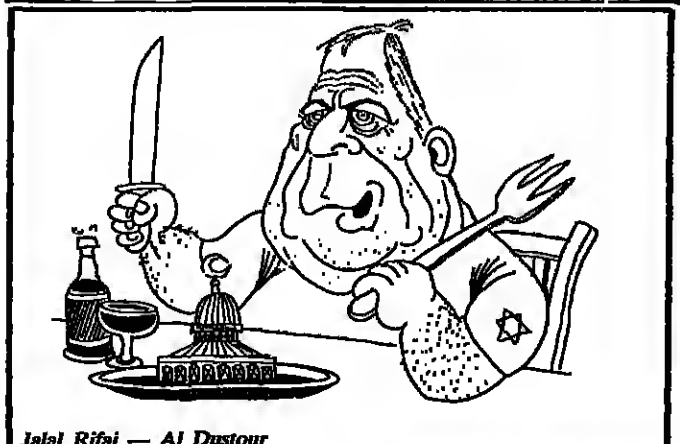
THE Public Security Department has just published a statistical bulletin giving details about those killed or injured in firing incidents in Jordan in the first quarter of 1990. The figures, three dead and 45 injured, bear indications that this year's incidents are going to be far below those of 1989, with less fatalities among our people as a result of stray bullets fired in weddings and other archaic occasions like the birth of male babies. The custom of firing at wedding celebrations owes its origins to ritual tribal dances expressing joy and jubilation in the Arab World, but now the habit of firing seems to have invaded towns and cities as well as the rural regions of Jordan with occasional reports of deaths and injuries that usually transformed the joy into sorrow and mourning.

In dealing with the situation in the past, governments empowered military courts to deal with such incidents, imposing heavy fines and jail sentences against those involved in firing weapons. That was intended to reduce the number of victims from such incidents and stem the use of fire arms as a whole.

What is worrying Jordanians is not only the loss of innocent life due to tampering with guns and firing weapons. Rather, it is the fact that many of the weapons seized by the police were generally found unlicensed, and that most of those involved in firing incidents belonged to the younger generations of about 18 to 27.

Notwithstanding the government's decision last January to refer incidents of this sort to civilian (rather than military) courts, one would expect stricter control on licensing weapons and heavier penalties and jail sentences for those firing weapons in populated regions to follow suit.

The statistical bulletin provided by the police Saturday can by no means bring the dead back or reduce the pain caused already to bereaved families, but it can at least remind Jordanians of the pressing need to continue the fight against reckless actions and needless casualties in our society.



Jalal Rifai - Al Dastour

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday described President Hafez Al Assad's visit to Egypt as a very important step towards building a unified Arab stand at a time when the Arab Nation is facing mounting challenges. The visit, coming after a break of 13 years has been welcomed by all Arab states since it helps Arab leaders to consult on issues of common interest and on the future stage of Arab action, said the paper. Needless to say that any Arab political influence and any respect to be gained from other nations can only come through solidarity among themselves, the paper added. Al Ra'i referred to hostile statements which tried to depict the visit as an attempt on the part of Assad to boost his leadership following a long isolation from other Arab leaders, as means to draw a wedge in the Arab ranks and to cause further splits. One can only expect such attitudes from the enemy who is bent on weakening the Arab Nation to pave the way for implementing his plans in the Arab region, the paper added. It said that the meeting in Egypt is bound to have its beneficial effect on current efforts to convene an Arab summit meeting in Cairo in November, and to enhance the Arab World's position vis-a-vis various challenges looming in the offing.

Al Dastour daily on Saturday emphasised the importance of the intrinsic Arab force as the best and most effective weapon that can provide defence to the Arab Nation. We can be assured of our success in safeguarding our interests and of our regional and international influence if we handle our vast human and material potentials properly and effectively, and employ them in the struggle to fend off danger, said the paper. Al Dastour was referring to the Arab foreign ministers' meeting opening in Tunis Sunday to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and Washington's hostile attitude towards the Arab World. It said that the foreign ministers would achieve a breakthrough if they found a way of presenting their case to Europe and the members of the U.N. Security Council; because these parties can have a major influence on the situation in the Middle East region. For their part, the Arabs can also display total solidarity and unified stand vis-a-vis the numerous challenges posed to them by their common enemy. What the Arabs need now is a collective action based on sound strategy that can confront and deal with the Israeli threats directed to the Arab Order, the paper said.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that all countries around the world wish to see peace established in the Middle East region except the United States and Israel. The two are opposing the views of the Soviet Union which has been calling for an international conference to achieve peace, the European Community and former U.S. Senator Charles Percy who has just voiced his warning against the prospect of renewed conflict in the region as a result of Israel's policies, demanding that Washington stop its unlimited support for Israel's practices, the paper noted. For the United States, Israel represents the custodian of Western and American interests in the Middle East, a region considered explosive by all observers and destabilising world peace, the paper added. The paper said that by supporting Israel, the United States is blindly pursuing irresponsible policies like those it had adopted in Vietnam and Korea, policies that ended up in total failure.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

CBJ resolves the future of 5 banks

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

AT LAST, the central bank has made up its mind and resolved in one stroke several pending problems in the banking system. This time it was a surgical operation rather than a tranquillising medicine.

Last week, decisions were made regarding the future of Petra Bank, Jordan & Gulf Bank, Syrian-Jordanian Bank, Al Mashreq Bank, Investment and Exports Bank.

Petra Bank will be liquidated, but only after the transfer of its deposits to the Housing Bank, the second largest and most powerful after Arab Bank. Thus all the public's deposits estimated at JD 100 million will be protected. Any withdrawal of these deposits from the Housing Bank will be replenished by the central bank on weekly basis.

Deposits will retain all their terms and conditions including currency, duration and interest rates. Some depositors may withdraw their deposits but the majority may like the new arrangement, as they can not find better terms elsewhere, coupled with the unlimited guarantee of the central bank.

At the same time a new investment bank will be established to finance exports. The new bank will be entrusted with the operating assets of Petra Bank, especially real estate, shares of companies and good loans. The paidup capital of this bank will be JD 4 million, of which 50 per cent will be provided by the central bank and the balance offered to the private sector. However, the central bank will supply the

Investment and Export Bank with substantial liquidity to be financed from a special fund in the central bank.

The central bank will require all banks and finance corporations to deposit amounts in this special fund equal to their deposits with Petra Bank which were withdrawn at the expense of the central bank after Aug. 2, 1989, when the CBJ took over Petra Bank and dismissed its corrupt management. These compulsory deposits will be tied for three years with a reduced interest rate of 4 to 5 per cent only. Thus those banks will not completely get away with their questionable practice, when, tempted by interest rates higher than those prevailing in the market, they were loading their liquidity onto Petra Bank for reckless

expansion. Amounts involved are estimated at JD 60 million.

On the other hand, the central bank was designated by the Economic Security Committee as a liquidator to Petra Bank, in order to recover the maximum possible from the residual assets of the troubled bank. The central bank in turn will appoint a committee of legal and financial experts to do the job on its behalf.

What remains of Petra Bank is the fate of some 700 employees. The governor of the central bank has vowed to extend all practical help to absorb as many employees as possible in the Housing Bank, the new Investment & Exports Bank, and in the banking system in general. Some of them are bound to lose their jobs. Jordan & Gulf Bank was

disengaged from Petra Bank.

A management committee was appointed to run the bank and recommend a formula to float the bank, either through restructuring or by selling it to an existing or new bank. The deficit in Jordan & Gulf Bank was estimated at JD 25 million. Unlike Petra Bank, Jordan & Gulf Bank's problem is only bad and doubtful debts; no outright theft was discovered.

Syrian-Jordanian Bank, which was started 15 years ago as a joint project, failed to function as planned, because Syria refused to license its Damascus branch and did not pay its share of the capital. Most likely the bank will be dealt with collectively with Jordan & Gulf Bank. The central bank is searching for a Jordanian Arab party, interested in

taking over at favourable conditions. As an indication to the above, the general manager of the Syrian-Jordanian Bank was appointed as a member in the management committee of Jordan & Gulf Bank.

The Jordanian branches of the Lebanese Al Mashreq Bank will also be restructured to form part of Jordanian bank led by Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan). The operation was under process for quite some time, and may reach its conclusion soon.

The central bank have moved decisively to put an end to abnormal situations, and enable the banking system to restore its credibility as a basis for a new era of economic adjustment and healthy growth.

Good old habits to save good old men

By Mark Heinrich
Reuter

EAST BERLIN — A mixture of social conscience and pre-election manoeuvring appears to be stopping the East German government from casting its bankrupt companies adrift in the economic merger with its powerful neighbour.

As East Germany disclosed last week that it was staving off unemployment for hundreds of thousands by paying industries to retain their jobs, the godfather of West Germany's financial powerhouse was in town to give contrary advice.

Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl said it was wrong to continue subsidising jobs in industry left terminally backward by 40 years of communist mismanagement and protectionism. "Some East German firms make the wrong products for the wrong markets at costs not in line with the market," he said after the first meeting in East Berlin of the Bundesbank.

It took control of East German finances when the Germans merged economies on July 1, a precursor to political union.

Massive private investment was needed to modernise industry and encourage West European, Japanese and American business to move in offering viable jobs for the future, Poehl said.

Those were words of wisdom from a renowned architect of inflation-free affluence. But how do you get such wisdom across to the East German worker fearing for his job in a strange new world ruled by competition, not patronage of the state?

The East German government is doing so by sitting on the fence between the country's past and future, preaching competition while quietly shielding those who are not up to it, analysts of the unfolding situation believe.

Companies converting from state to private ownership are getting state liquidity credits and straight cash infusions to keep hundreds of thousands of workers employed for the next six months at least, the labour ministry said.

"The workers are working less than before or not at all, but are nevertheless not dismissed," and receive 65 per cent of their previous income, it said — a have-it-

both-ways formula with both a social and political motive, analysts say.

The first is the communist tradition of welfare guarantees which members of the right-left grand coalition now governing East Germany tout as a positive legacy of the old regime worth saving in some sort of merger with capitalism.

The second is a calculated manoeuvre to keep jobless rolls from swelling into the millions before December, when all-German general elections will be held to seal unification after 45 years of post-world war two division.

Mass unemployment could prove a powder keg of social unrest in East Germany and threaten West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's strong bid to be elected the first leader of a reunited fatherland, the analysts say.

Latest polls show the dominant Christian Democrats (CDU) in both Germanys would score a resounding majority in tandem with their junior coalition partners, the free democrats, if the unity elections were staged now.

With electoral margins in mind, Kohl's government has shelled out two billion marks (\$1.2 billion) this year to finance benefit schemes hatched by East Germany's governing coalition, led by CDU Premier Lothar de Maiziere.

East German unemployment shot up by 50 per cent to more than 142,000 in June but short-time working and new retraining programmes are expected to limit dole queues through December.

The Christian democrats may also be boosted by the granting of big wage increases to East German chemical and engineering workers by industries shaken by wildcat strikes.

The pay raises would help offset sharply higher food prices caused by the abolition of communist subsidies under German monetary and economic union.

But Poehl saw economic pitfalls here as well. "The competitiveness of East German firms depends to a large extent on wage costs," he said, telling workers they could price themselves out of a job.

Mandela, the PLO and American Jews

By Ian Williams

NELSON Mandela's visit to the U.S. was a fascinating revelation of how American politics and the media personalise and demonise issues. Here was Mandela, certified as a hero, but reputed to have views on the Middle East which were the political equivalent of leprosy. A delegation of American Jewish leaders flew to Geneva to check on his political health, wanting assurances that he accepted not just Israel's existence but its moral right to existence.

Ostensibly, this was to avert the threat of pro-Israeli and anti-Mandela demonstrations in New York. Perhaps wisely, in view of the fragile state of the "gorgeous mosaic" of the city's ethnic diversity, there were no significant demonstrations. Mandela's attractions to an increasingly alienated black and Latin population are obvious, and the political implications of his transition from prisoner of the South African regime to negotiator with them are fairly clear.

The popularity was reflected in a media hype of unprecedented saturation coverage. The Empire State Building lit up in ANC colours, and the importation, for the parade, of the ticker tape no longer used in Wall Street's electronic offices, helped contribute to an image of a bandwagon running out of control as every hobby horse in New York was hitched behind it.

Continuously, one heard it said on the subway, the buses and on "vox pops" on TV that people were "taking part in history" by being on the side-

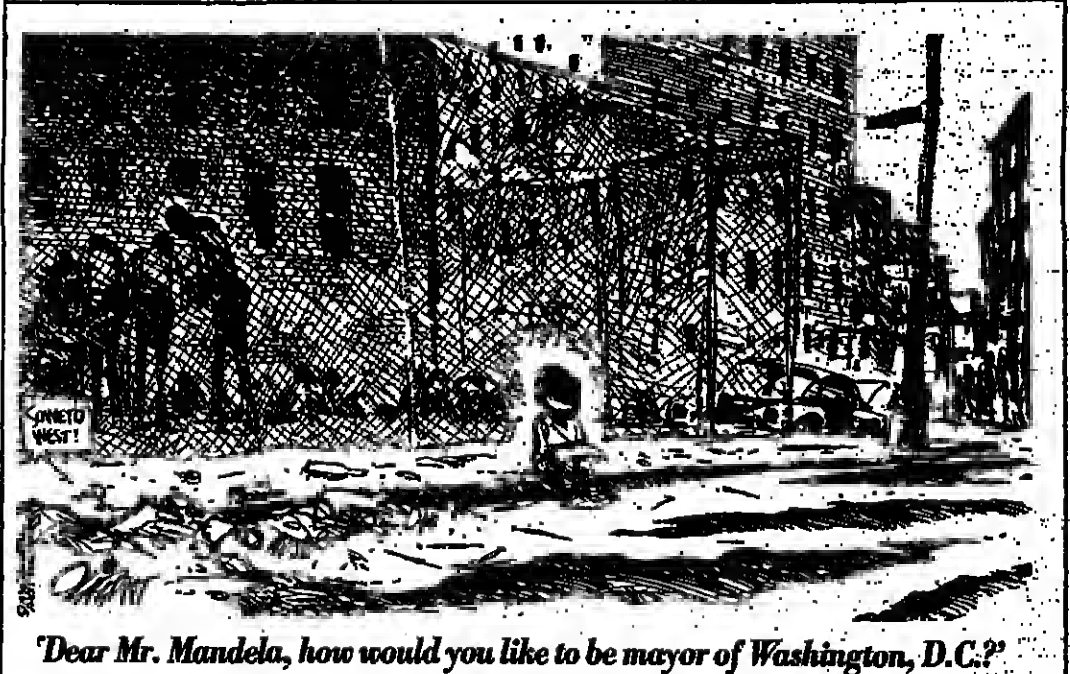
walk to greet his motorcade. But the fact that what they were doing was applauding other people's making of history is perhaps indicative of how American politics has been reduced to spectator sport for the voters and a spectacle for the viewers. As in sports, the commentators usually make the running. In American coverage of the Middle East, not least in New York, the world has hitherto appeared as a dualistic contest between pro-Israeli angels and pro-PLO demons.

Mandela's visit broke new ground. His support for the PLO was not shameful, wrested from him by inquisitorial Zionists, but volunteered. His address to the United Nations identified the ANC with

the PLO and Polisario. The objections to his support for the PLO came not from ordinary blacks, who seemed delighted to hear a politician saying what he believed rather than what his supporting PACs wanted. On the Ted Koppel Show, Mandela turned the tables on Israeli supporters, who taxed him with a lack of principle for supporting the likes of Qadhafi, Castro and Arafat. He pointed out that, firstly Libya had supported the ANC at a time when others did not, and second that the ANC had Jewish leaders. Indeed, he continued implacably, the ANC refused to open an office in Libya until Qadhafi agreed to let its Jewish members in. His firm refusal to disavow alliance with the PLO was in

contrast to the compromise of most black American politicians in the Democratic Party. Like Mayor David Dinkins of New York, they profess almost unqualified support for Israel. Mandela's pronouncements are a reminder of the contradictions implied by being 100 per cent anti-apartheid, while refusing to countenance any criticism of Israel. Since Israel is South Africa's closest military ally, and has probably colluded with it in nuclear testing, it is actively (increasingly single-handedly) making sanctions somewhat ineffective.

It remains to be seen whether black office holders will call the bluff of the Israeli lobbyists and show the same principles as Mandela.

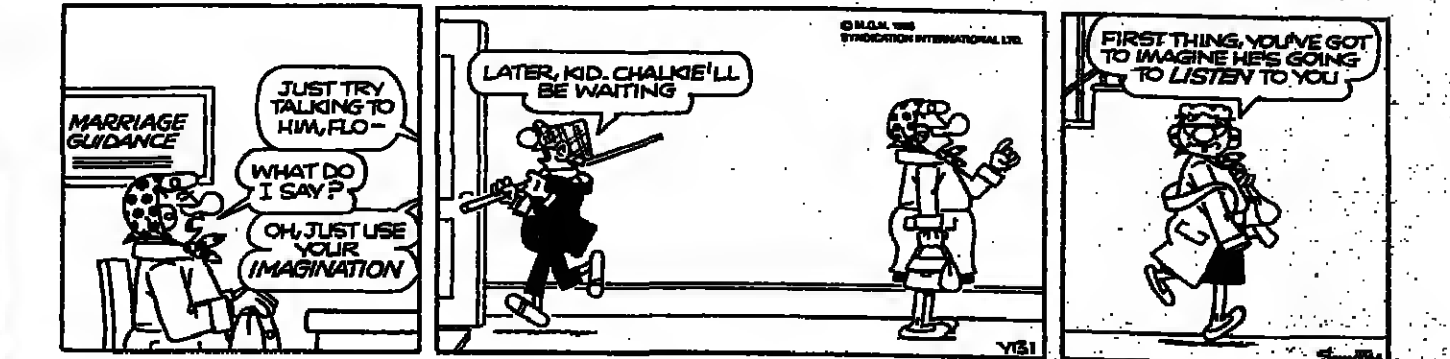


'Dear Mr. Mandela, how would you like to be mayor of Washington, D.C.?'

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



'Here are the bones; where are our dollars?'

By Tom Lamsner
Reuters

PHNOM PENH — The smiling young man threaded his way between tables in a noisy restaurant in Phnom Penh and approached the only Westerner present.

"I must talk to you," he said in careful English over the chatter at the crowded table. He politely declined to sit down to join in a meal but finally accepted a glass of herbal wine. Then he repeated his request and added in a lowered voice: "but we cannot talk here. It is top secret."

In a country at war and rife with political unrest, it was hard to know what to expect. But the young man's mystery was not so unusual — his business was selling human bones.

"The fastest growing business in Cambodia is not gold and is not diamonds," said a European diplomat here. "It is the trade in remains of American servicemen missing since the Vietnam war."

He may have been exaggerating, but residents say that as Washington shows signs of relenting in its refusal to deal with Phnom Penh on the issue, the morbid trade is blossoming.

The U.S. government lists 83 Americans as missing in action (MIA) in Cambodia — a small number compared with more than 1,500 in Vietnam and 500 in Laos.

Many of those unaccounted for are fliers whose planes were on missions over Vietnam and crashed before they could return to bases in Thailand and Laos.

U.S. ground forces also briefly invaded Cambodia in May, 1970.

Cambodia announced on June 24 the creation of a high-ranking commission to seek the remains of American servicemen. Officials say they already have 34 sets of "dogtags" — identity discs — and a number of remains they would like U.S. experts to examine.

The man with a secret got down to business at a rendezvous the next day. "We have the identification tags, the card, the gun, and the bones of an American pilot... can you take a piece of the bones to the committee and find out about the money?"

The money he asked about is the reward widely rumored to be on offer in Phnom Penh for the return of remains of American soldiers. The existence of a "committee" handing out the cash is another popular myth.

The rumor appears to have started after U.S. war veterans in the late 1980s threw notes in the Mekong River in Thailand and released balloons across the Laos border carrying messages offering

rewards for the return of a live U.S. prisoner of war.

The rumor is widely enough believed to encourage a lucrative trade in purported American remains, and U.S. military identification tags and cards, genuine or otherwise.

Some Cambodians leaving by boat to seek a new life in the West have taken along bones they hope to sell as U.S. remains.

An Australian relief official in Phnom Penh said: "People turn up at the door of relief agencies and say, 'here are some remains and where are our dollars?'"

The question of Americans missing in Indochina has been an emotional one in the United States and a delicate political issue since Washington has no diplomatic relations with Vietnam and does not recognize the Cambodian government in Phnom Penh.

Past Cambodian offers to allow U.S. officials to help search for and test remains have been refused by the United States, worried it could imply recognition of Phnom Penh.

Washington supports the Cambodian Guerrilla coalition fighting to overthrow the government.

Describing the work of the new Cambodian commission, senior Foreign Ministry Official Uch Kim An said: "We are not setting up this commission just for propaganda purposes. We need the assistance of the United States to help find and identify the remains. We have no expertise in this," he added.

"We cannot be more humanitarian than the U.S. administration allows us to be," said Thon Hin, who handles the MIA issue as deputy director of the ministry's America and West Europe bureau.

"We don't demand that this be a political issue. We are ready to give the dogtags and remains we have to the U.S. government. All we do ask is that the United States send an official representative to deal with us on the matter."

On June 28, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon told a congressional committee in Washington that the United States was prepared to send technical experts to Phnom Penh as soon as possible.

He said: "In line with our long-standing policy, we are fully prepared to cooperate with officials in Phnom Penh to resolve the fate of Americans missing in Cambodia, as a separate humanitarian matter and despite our political differences with that regime."



July 1969 - First U.S. troops leave Vietnam; by the end of the year, 75,000 have been sent home (file photo)

Better housing for the neediest of the needy in Palestinian camps

FOR THE Palestine refugees, as for other homeless people, shelter has always been a primary concern of daily life.

At first, after their dispersal in 1948, the Palestine refugees lived in tents. In the mid-1950s, as their



Social workers make surveys in camps to identify special hardship cases most in need of shelter repairs (UNRWA photo)

plight continued without solution, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) began to replace these tents with simple shelters. These usually consisted of one or two rooms — 3 by 4 metres in size — made of

cement-blocks or mud bricks, with corrugated iron, tile or reed roofing and wooden doors and windows.

Most of the Palestine refugees still living in camps today — some 820,000, or about a third of the total registered refugee population — still use these original units.

These basic rooms may long since have been absorbed into larger and sturdier living space built around them by the refugees since then, but somewhere inside each camp dwelling, the original "UNRWA unit" is more often than not still to be found in use.

Over time, these original rooms have deteriorated. Since 1982, UNRWA has helped the most disadvantaged refugees — the widows, the elderly, the sick and disabled, known to UNRWA as "special hardship cases" — to repair their shelters.

Now, with the help of special contributions from donors, special hardship cases in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are getting new, well-built rooms added to their shelters by UNRWA under the Agency's Expanded Programme of Assistance for the refugees in the Israeli-occupied territory.

This "shelter rehabilitation programme" is enabling the Agency to upgrade the housing accommodation of the neediest refugees — to provide them with decent living accommodation — albeit in circumstances designed to be a temporary measure pending a political solution of the Palestine problem.

Donations for shelter rehabilitation have come from the Arab Gulf state of Kuwait and have been pledged by the government of Italy. They are earmarked for the repair or reconstruction of unserviceable rooms in shelters inhabited by special hardship cases in camps in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Our aim is to ensure that these shelters have one decent room plus a 'sanitary core' — with a shower and toilet and a kitchen," explained UNRWA engineer Sean Collins, the Agency's Field Technical Officer in the West Bank. "These rooms are built to a much higher standard than the original shelters, which were not intended to last as long as they have."

"The first priority is that they should have at least one weatherproof room," added Jan Dahman, UNRWA's Field Technical Officer in Gaza. "This means concrete roofing, with waterproofing, rather than the corrugated iron we used to use."

The new rooms are also better lit and ventilated than the old ones. Their windows are bigger and their ceilings higher. In the West Bank, aluminium windows are being installed while in Gaza wooden windows are being used because they are readily available locally.

In some cases, the existing shelters are in such bad condition that the new rooms, as well as the kitchen and sanitary block, must be built from scratch. In other cases, it is sufficient just to build either a new room or a toilet block or both and repair an existing room for use as a kitchen, according to Basil Hijazi, project engineer for the shelter rehabilitation unit in the West Bank. And, he adds, sometimes it is enough only to make repairs such as plastering or replacing doors or windows.

The programme is being carried out as funding is obtained. So far, Kuwait has donated \$1.4 million to UNRWA for the project — \$800,000 for shelter repairs in the Gaza Strip and \$574,000 for the West Bank. Italy has pledged \$1.2 million for Gaza and \$800,000 for the West Bank. The average cost of rehabilitation

ing a shelter is \$5,500. UNRWA estimates that one quarter of the special hardship cases need shelter rehabilitation — which would mean at least 2,400 shelters in Gaza and 1,600 in the West Bank. The Kuwaiti donation will

pay for work on 131 shelters in Gaza and 94 in the West Bank. If funding materialises from the Italian pledge, as many as 200 additional shelters can be rehabilitated in Gaza, and another 130 or so in the West Bank — UNRWA.



UNRWA social workers follow up on the progress of construction as the work goes on (UNRWA photo)

Saudi Arabia goes totally 'natural'

By Donna Fenn Heintzen
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia, which sits on 25 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, is now protecting another natural resource — its diminishing wildlife population.

The oil boom and the rapid urban development that followed, catapulted the kingdom into the 20th century.

But the push to modernize trampled over ecological concerns and Saudi Arabia's vast expanses of desert are now virtually empty of game.

"Man has gone astray and indulged in unjustified systematic exploitation and depletion of natural resources," said Prince Saud Al Faisal, the foreign minister and managing director of the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development.

Saud and others in the kingdom have looked to the Koran, Islam's holy book, for the conservation mandate.

"For there is not an animal on earth nor a creature flying on two wings, but they are peoples, like unto you," it says, "do no mischief on the earth, after it hath been set in order."

Prince Saud, a driving force behind the commission formed four years ago, was speaking at the recent release of 19 Arabian oryx, a species of large white-coated, bi-horned antelope, in Mahazat As Sayed, a 2,200

square-kilometre protected area near the western mountain city of Taif.

The Saudi conservationists are also breeding rare animals in captivity, setting up new protected areas, restoring natural habitat, and conducting an extensive public education campaign.

Saudi Arabia does not usually spring to mind as a country known for its wildlife. But, as well as the oryx, it is also home to the sand cat.

The ibex, or mountain goat, still roams the Northern Hejaz mountains and the Dorcas gazelle and sand gazelle can be found in remote southern areas.

Ironically, Saudi Arabia's initial concern for conservation came from hunters who noticed an alarming decrease in game.

"Two of the protected areas in the north were suggested by eminent falconers from the royal family," said Abdulaziz Abu Zinada, the commission's secretary-general.

Even the commission's eight governors are avid hunters. Hunting, especially with falcons, has been part of Saudi culture for generations. But the introduction of firearms and four-wheel drive vehicles has tipped the ecological balance.

Gazelles, for example, were once so plentiful in the Eastern Province that hunters could fill pickups with game in a single afternoon.

The animals, now scarce, are

being successfully bred at King Khalid Wildlife Research Centre near Riyadh. By the end of this year, more than 50 will have been released into two protected areas.

The centre is also preparing to release 10 captive bred red-necked ostriches.

"The Arabian ostrich doesn't exist anymore," said Abu Zinada, "but we found that the African red-necked species closely resembled them."

The Oryx, which virtually disappeared from Saudi Arabia in the 1960s, is also being bred in captivity at the National Wildlife Research centre near Taif.

"This year, we will re-introduce into the wild six oryx captive-bred in Saudi Arabia," Abu Zinada said.

The 40 million-riyal (\$10.6 million) centre was established in 1986 to breed Houbara Bustards, a turkey-like bird favoured by falconers as prey.

"The bird is facing extinction from over-hunting and deterioration of habitat," Abu Zinada commented.

The commission is tracking captive-bred and wild houbaras by satellite and radio to unravel the mysteries of their mating and migratory habits.

But breeding isn't the most important aspect of the Saudi conservation strategy. Abu Zinada said protecting the environment is the top priority.

Since there is no private ownership of rangelands, shepherds

graze their livestock wherever food is most abundant. There is little incentive for conservative land management.

Food supplements for livestock has also resulted in a larger animal population with less range to support them.

The commission plans to remedy that situation by setting up 120 protected areas. Seven have already been established.

The Kingdom is using an analytical approach that has not been applied anywhere else, said Graham Child, a Zimbabwean consultant with the commission.

"We're trying to analyse the country's biological and physical characteristics so that the protected areas will represent all of the country's natural elements," he said.

Abu Zinada estimates this ambitious plan will take 15-20 years to implement.

Enforcing a system of protected areas will not be easy. Bedouins, accustomed to grazing their livestock where they please, will need appeasing.

"We're trying to choose areas where there's not so much potential for conflict," said John Granger, a British consultant.

"It's very important to have hunting laws" to keep hunters in check, Abu Zinada noted.

Legislation currently on the books is too vague and sporadically enforced.

The council of ministers is currently studying legislation mandating protected areas recommended by the commission.

Four of the commission's governors — Prince Sultan, the defence minister Prince Nayef, the interior minister Prince Saud, and Agriculture and Water Minister Abdul-Rahman Al-Sheikh — are sit on the council.

"The presence of so many ministers on the commission makes it much stronger than a ministry of environment would be," Child noted.

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"It is a lie. A pure lie," Karbainov said. "In the 1930s, KGB organs had influence over all bodies, over government and party bodies. Practically, they were all instruments for strengthening the personal power of Stalin."

"Now, it is absolutely not the case. The organs of the KGB do not concern themselves with any social organisations."

Several days after the interview, at the behest of the KGB, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev stripped Kalugin of his rank and decorations, the government news agency TASS reported.

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KGB adopts democratic role in the theatre of change in U.S.S.R.

By Bryan Brunley
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The general entrusted with improving the KGB's image acknowledges it will be hard to erase the terror implanted in the national consciousness by decades of official lawlessness.

"Violations of the law are a thing of the past, but the syndrome of fear unfortunately remains," Maj. Gen. Alexander N. Karbainov said in an interview.

"The KGB... still has the image of a terrible force," said Karbainov, head of the new KGB center for public relations.

His job is to change people's attitude toward the secret police agency that killed millions for Josef Stalin in the 1930s and 1940s, bounded dissidents until

the mid-1980s and vied with foreign spies in the cold war.

The interview took place in Karbainov's office on the Third Floor of Lubyanka, the KGB headquarters. It is next to a corridor office occupied by agency chiefs from the founder, Felix Dzerzhinsky, to Yuri Andropov, who became the Soviet leader in 1982.

"We are meeting with you in the building of the KGB in order that you should feel that there are no super-steel bars on the windows, no terrible cells," the 44-year-old general said.

Access to the building was limited. Lubyanka's basement cells, described in Soviet prison literature, were not on the tour.

Karbainov spoke of espionage struggles with the CIA and denied a former KGB general's allegation that his agency spied

on leaders of Soviet strike committees and people trying to form new parties.

He expressed opposition to proposals that the KGB's domestic and foreign operations be separated along the lines of the system in the United States, where the CIA operates abroad and the FBI acts domestically.

The KGB, which has never disclosed its budget or number of employees, controls the domestic secret police, intelligence operations abroad, the units that guard Kremlin leaders, the border patrol and several infantry divisions.

It has branches in other institutions, including the armed forces, and Western reports say it also supervises nuclear weapons.

Police and KGB guards, not told that an AP reporter and photographer would visit, first refused to let them wait in the

lobby or on the sidewalk outside, then scrutinised their documents when an escort arrived.

Inside the yellow, gray and pink 19th century building were long, empty corridors and several courtyards. Bars covered some windows.

Lubyanka has been opened to a few Western reporters, and Karbainov said news conferences would be held there soon.

Officers of the committee for state security, initials KGB, reverse Andropov and are restoring his suite — a small bedroom, a study and an office with a switchboard from which he could call KGB stations from San Francisco to Siberia. The new director has moved his office to a new building next door.

Karbainov said his job was to publicise the positive side of security work, including the

arrests in the last seven years of 31 Soviets accused of spying for foreign powers, usually the United States.

As part of the campaign, the agency has issued a trial edition of a planned monthly KGB companion. The first issue carried a new version of the arrest of A.G. Tolachev, a Soviet engineer accused of spying for the CIA.

Western intelligence sources have said they thought Tolachev was compromised by U.S. defector Edward Lee Howard, a CIA agent who was trained to work in Moscow but was fired and fled to the Soviet Union.

According to the KGB companion, Tolachev was turned in by co-worker Anna Vladimirovna, who spotted him burning packets of money. Karbainov said the KGB version was accurate.

"I can just tell you one figure... the sum of money deposited into his account by the CIA: \$2 million... this information is documented," Karbainov said, adding that the money went into a foreign bank.

Western agents have increased their activities against the Soviet Union in recent years, he said, and declared:

"American intelligence works well. I think that the closing stage of the cold war was accompanied by a certain activation of foreign intelligence agencies... in the Soviet Union and around the world."

He agreed with a CIA official quoted in the KGB newspaper as saying in 1984: "not long ago, we had practically no agents in the socialist bloc, but now we have so many that we can barely run them. And each year, the number

of agents grows."

Karbainov's office has conducted a press campaign against Oleg D. Kalugin, a former KGB general who has urged that the agency be divided into domestic and foreign services to reduce its power.

In response to Kalugin and other reformers, Karbainov argued that intelligence and counterintelligence operations supplement each other and must remain within the same organisation.

"Any separation of the functions, at least in the initial stages, reduces the viability of each part, the effectiveness of each part," he said. "It's like a human being. You can cut off his arms and legs. He is still a man, but he cannot move."

"In the United States, a different system developed from the

Syrian Jordanian, Jordan Gulf banks come on screen

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With Petra Bank out of the way facing a liquidation process, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has shifted its attention to the Jordan Gulf Bank and its merger with the Syrian Jordanian Bank seems to be on the cards, according to informed sources.

The CBJ, acting under a mandate from the Economic Security Committee (ESC), has already appointed a new five-member management panel for the Jordan Gulf Bank, which was taken over by the ESC along with Petra Bank in August last year. The original idea was to merge the two banks, but the affairs of Petra Bank "were so much out of proportion" that the Jordan Gulf Bank would have "gone down with it if the merger was carried out," said a highly-informed banking source.

According to the source as well as a senior official at the Jordan Gulf Bank, the main problem with the Jordan Gulf Bank is bad debts to the tune of almost JD 27 million. "Unlike Petra Bank, there is no evidence of any outright embezzlement or misuse of funds," said the official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"True, the Jordan Gulf Bank was, to a large extent, manipulated by the former management (of Ahmad Chalabi) of Petra Bank and found itself in trouble, but it can also be argued that the former management of (Hassan Abdul Aziz) was a victim of circumstances," he added.

According to CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, the shares of Jordan Gulf are a total write-off for its owners (so were those of the Petra Bank).

In any event, according to economists, sorting out the affairs of Jordan Gulf should not pose a real problem. "In fact, the situation is more or less clear after most of the books of accounts of the bank have been scrutinised thoroughly by auditors and there are three main proposals," said the source.

One is to revamp the institution, which might need an immediate cash injection of about JD 10 million, and run it as an independent bank; the second is to sell it on a "as-is-where-is-basis"; and the third idea is to bring about a merger with another bank.

Banking sources expected the third formula to be favoured, particularly that is could also help streamline another bank, the Syrian Jordanian Bank, which, as one source put it, "has not exactly been able to realise the objectives for which it has been created."

The source noted that Hisham Safadi, director-general of the Syrian Jordanian Bank, has been appointed member of the new management board of the Jordan Gulf Bank and that it could be taken as one sign of a possible merger between the two banks.

But, a senior official at the Jordanian Syrian Bank said, "it is only an idea; nothing has really been discussed or finalised."

The four other members of the new Jordan Gulf board were also on the interim committee which ran Petra Bank as well as Jordan Gulf since their take-over in August. They are: Walid Asfour, Jawad Al Anani (both former ministers), Walid Khairallah (general manager of Jordan Gulf) and Ahmad Abdul Fatah (head of the CBJ's banks control department). None of them could be reached for comment Saturday.

The JD 2 million capital Syrian Jordanian Bank was set up in 1979 and it started operations in mid-1980, mainly devoted to catering to the banking needs of joint Jordanian-Syrian joint ventures. Two of its present major clients are the Syrian-Jordanian Industries Company and the Syrian-Jordanian Land Transport Company — both set up under bilateral cooperation agreements.

"We have several other major Jordanian clients," said an official at the bank who refused to be identified.

The capital of the bank is equally shared between Jordan and Syria and "contrary to reports, Syria has paid most of its capital share," said the official.

Banking and official sources said one of the main problems that impeded the work of the Syrian Jordanian Bank was the absence of a branch in Damascus. According to an economist familiar with Syrian banking, legislation in force in Syria "does not allow for the opening of any branch of a commercial bank other than those owned by the government."

The Syrian Jordanian Bank is registered in Jordan as a commercial bank. It has only one branch, located in Amman and employs around two dozen staff members.

One banking source said the "main or perhaps the sole problem in a merger between the Jordan Gulf Bank and the Syrian Jordanian Bank is how to tackle the Syrian content in the Syrian Jordanian Bank. Once this aspect is handled, the rest should be a smooth, easy process."

Nabulsi, announcing the move to transfer all accounts and deposits of Petra Bank to the Housing Bank as the first step towards liquidating the troubled institution, said the new panel running the affairs of the Jordan Gulf Bank would work in full coordination with the CBJ and "ensure that it is run on solid foundations" pending a final decision on the future of the bank.

Some banking sources said private investors from the Gulf may be interested in acquiring Jordan Gulf, if only because its banking licence will be part of the deal in light of an assertion by the CBJ that no new banks will be licensed in Jordan.

In the meantime, Jordan Gulf employees are hoping that their jobs will not be jeopardised no matter what shape or form the bank assumes.

"We have been informed that we will not lose our jobs whether the bank is merged with another or is sold to another," said an employee in the clearing department of the bank. "We hope the promise will be honoured."

ILO statistics show precarious jobs rising

GENEVA (R) — More people in Western Europe than ever before are working in part-time or temporary jobs, without pensions or social security benefits, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has said.

The so-called precarious jobs, including work at home and self-employment, steadily eroded stable wage employment in many countries during the 1970s and 1980s, it said in a report.

The most recent statistics, for 1985, put the Netherlands at the top of the list, with 22.6 per cent of all wage employment classed as part-time, followed by Britain with 21.8 per cent.

West Germany had 12.3 per cent, France 10.5 per cent and Belgium 9.3 per cent.

The share of women in part-

time employment ranged from 51 per cent in the Netherlands to 21 per cent in France.

High unemployment had weakened the position of job-seekers, making it possible for employers to offer less attractive terms, the ILO said. "Growth of precarious jobs can thus be directly linked to rising unemployment."

It noted that labour inspection services had not grown or been strengthened in the same proportion as precarious work had developed, "even though it is widely admitted that this form of employment is highly vulnerable to abuse."

The trend also had drawbacks for employers, the ILO said. Insecure short-term workers were not highly productive and their motivation was likely to be weak.

Privatisation bill takes Poland down capitalist road

WARSAW (R) — Poland took a giant step down the road from communism to capitalism Friday when the lower house of parliament approved a bill to privatise the economy and hand out free shares to every adult Pole.

Ex-communists and the allies, who control 65 per cent of the Sejm (lower house) seats, joined forces with Solidarity in voting to dismantle the state-controlled economy they built up over 45 years.

The vote on the long-awaited law "on privatising state enterprises" — the centrepiece of the government's ambitious economic restructuring plans — was an overwhelming 328 to two with 39 abstentions.

The Sejm voted separately to create a ministry of ownership transformation to take charge of the privatisation process.

Both measures must still pass the Solidarity-controlled Senate (upper house) but Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz told the Sejm Thursday the government wanted to privatise the economy faster than any other country.

The vote was a boost for the beleaguered government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki after three months' wrangling over the bill in commission.

It switches the emphasis of the government's activity to economic restructuring after six months of austerity that has curbed hyperinflation but caused hardship by slashing output and real incomes 30 per cent and creating 570,000 jobless.

The labour ministry said Thursday unemployment soared 125,000 in June to 570,000 or 4.2 per cent of the work force. Only 9,000 people were jobless in December.

Under the privatisation law the government will start selling off the 7,600 state enterprises that comprise 80 per cent of the Polish economy and give everyone a free slice of the capitalist pie.

Enterprises selected for privatisation will be transformed into treasury corporations whose shares will be sold to the public within two years.

To ensure broad public involvement and overcome Poles' chronic lack of capital the government will give every adult a privatisation coupon exchangeable for free shares in a company of their choice. The value of these shares has not yet been fixed.

Balcerowicz did not spell out the exact pace of privatisation but figures published last month by the government privatisation office said up to 340 enterprises could be transformed into private companies or liquidated and their assets sold piecemeal in the first year.

It said 12 enterprises em-

ploying 48,000 people were targeted for the first phase and the government hoped to complete the sale of 40 companies by next July.

In addition, 200-300 companies with up to 50,000 employees would be liquidated and their assets sold off at the same time.

The bill gives parliament the right to decide the broad lines of each year's privatisation programme but the government will decide the details. The Sejm rejected a proposal to let parliament choose the firms to be privatised.

Workers will be assured a considerable stake in privatised companies. Staff of a privatised firm will be able to buy up to 20 per cent of their company's shares at half price with each employee able to invest a year's salary.

Foreigners will have the right to buy 10 per cent of a private company's shares and will need official authorisation to exceed this.

Meanwhile, Poland's industrial production fell nearly 30 per cent in the first half of the year as the Solidarity-led government paid the price for implementing Western-style reforms, official figures showed.

A report by the main statistical office (GUS) said industrial production, at 38.8 trillion zlotys (\$4.09 billion) was 28.7 per cent down in real terms on the same period last year.

The drop included falls of 37.4 per cent in sales by the food industry and more than 40 per cent in sales of light industrial goods. GUS issues only industrial sales figures and does not give actual production statistics.

Recession has been the price of the government's drive to stamp out hyperinflation, eliminate subsidies and create a Western-style free market.

The GUS report, covering the six months since economic austerity measures were introduced Jan. 1, confirmed that sharply reduced domestic demand had forced Poland to sell more goods abroad and import less.

Kuwait, UAE cut oil output

ABU DHABI (R) — Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have started to cut oil output to push up prices and heal a rift, within OPEC that threatened to sink a group meeting in Geneva later this month.

UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteibi confirmed Friday that his country had accepted an OPEC output quota of 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d), although he said it was too low.

"We accepted this quota because we want to end once and for all the rifts that have ravaged OPEC and create a healthy atmosphere, to reach a unanimous decision for the first time in eight years on production and quotas," he told reporters.

The UAE has repeatedly demanded two million b/d and has ignored the OPEC quota system since last November when it was offered what it viewed as a decisory 1.095 million limit.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Thursday the breakthrough came in a telephone call between Saudi King Fahd and UAE Minister Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan.

Standing in Abu Dhabi next to the visiting oil minister from Iran, which had joined former war foe Iraq in accusing the UAE and Kuwait of undermining world oil prices, Oteibi set the seal on an agreement which has been forming over the past week.

"The UAE will start immediately enforcing the decision which will have further positive effects on the market. I can say that the road to Geneva is now safe," he said.

In New York, August crude oil futures topped \$19 a barrel, above the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) \$18 target price, and on the way to recouping all this year's losses from \$21.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Agazadeh said: "It is an important message by Kuwait and the UAE to the markets. We will go to Geneva with a total OPEC output ceiling of 22.5 million b/d."

He said Kuwait and the UAE would knock around one million b/d off their production.

Both countries together were producing about four million b/d at their peak earlier this year, compared with a combined three million quota under the new agreement.

Fed signals lower U.S. costs

Interest rates go up for Third World

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Interest rates on loans to Third World countries will rise effective Sunday by 0.9 percentage point, the U.S. government's Export-Import (Exim) Bank announced Friday.

The increase, the first in two years, is the result of an agreement among 22 industrial countries. Their governments' all subsidise loans to encourage sales of their products in the Third World. The agreement on interest rates is designed to prevent the leading governments from bidding against one another for business by offering larger subsidies to borrowers in the form of lower interest.

Subsidies are paid eventually by taxpayers of the lending countries.

Lending governments sometimes break the agreement by offering lower than agreed rates, using low-interest funds appropriated originally as foreign aid.

Borrowers are often required to use the money for purchases in the lending country. The U.S. government has long tried to discourage such "tied aid" but has begun to offer it in recent years after American businesses complained that they were losing out in competition with Japan, France and other countries.

Borrowing countries are classified on the basis of national income, as calculated by the World Bank for 1979. Countries with average incomes of less than \$680 in that year will have to pay 9.2 per cent a year on loans instead of 8.3 per cent.

Countries with average incomes between \$680 and \$4,000 will pay 10.05 per cent instead of 9.15 per cent for loans of two to five years, and 10.55 per cent instead of 9.65 for loans with longer repayment periods.

Rates are reviewed each January and July. They are based on a weighted average of commercial interest rates in major financial countries.

For countries with higher incomes, the rates charged are close to those available to borrowers from private sources when

the loans is for two to five years. For longer loans, the government banks will only offer to guarantee private loans — which lowers the rate somewhat for the borrower.

There are special rates for the export of commercial jet planes and nuclear power plants.

Meanwhile the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) sent interest rates lower Friday, relaxing credit for the first time in seven months and giving the weakening American economy a long-awaited nudge.

Investors enthusiastically welcomed the move to easier credit, pushing Wall Street's best-known share index, the Dow Jones industrial average, through the 3,000 mark for the first time. The 30-share index later slid to close just 10.40 points up at 2,980.20.

"This has got to get an awful lot of people into the market," said Dale Tills, manager of institutional equities at Charles Schwab and Co. "It's really positive."

The move to lower interest rates came just a day after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan surprised economists by telling Congress that the central bank may ease its monetary policy to stave off a growing credit crunch.

President George Bush was pleased at the move to lower rates. He had been urging the independent Federal Reserve to ease credit to help stave off a possible recession after nearly eight years of virtually uninterrupted economic growth.

While the Federal Reserve never discloses why it intervenes in the money markets, economists said Friday's action was a clear signal of lower rates.

"Yesterday Greenspan said the Fed was going to ease. Today it did," said Ward McCarthy, managing director at Stone and McCarthy Research Associates Inc.

The Federal Reserve signalled its clear desire to ease credit through a technical operation in the money markets. It aggressively pumped money into the economy by purchasing U.S. government securities, providing fresh capital for banks to expand their loans and lower the cost of borrowing for their clients.

The action — one of many levers the central bank uses to influence interest rates in the economy — pushed down the closely watched federal funds rate to eight per cent from the previous target level of 8.25 per cent.

The dollar weakened on the prospect of lower interest rates. Higher rates strengthen the dollar by drawing in foreign investment.

The stock market had been in a holding pattern since its strong spring rally. As evidence has mounted of a weakening in the economy, investors had waited for a sign that the central bank, which controls the money supply, would move to ease credit. Easier credit is good for business and means there are more funds available for people to buy shares.

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Government Tenders Directorate

Central Tenders announcement

Local Contractors Classified in the field of Buildings and willing to participate in the following Tenders are requested to purchase tender documents from the Government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works and Housing starting July 15, 1990 according to the following:

a. The Project is Partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Japan.

b. Tender	Description of Tender	Tenders Price	Contractors Non-refundable classification grade
46/90	1. Construction of Al-Jareween/Sahab Comp. (Girls) school Buildings, Area (4,390) m ² 2. Construction of Sahab Comp. (Girls) School/Sahab Buildings, Area (4,390) m ²	JD 175	First or Second
47/90	1. Construction of Al-Joundi/Zarga Comp. (Girls) School Buildings, Area (4,390) m ² 2. Construction of Al-Joundi/Zarga Comp. (Boys) School Buildings, Area (4,390) m ² 3. Construction of Al-Ameer Faisal/Zarga Comp. (Girls) School Buildings, Area (4,390) m ²	JD 200	First or Second
48/90	1. Construction of Irbid Al-Teseye/Comp. (Girls) School Buildings, Area (3,365) m ² 2. Construction of Al-Sayaf/Irbid Comp. (Girls) School Buildings, Area (3,365) m ² 3. Construction of Hai-Hanina/Irbid Buildings, Area (3,465) m ²	JD 175	First or Second

c. Work load will be considered in awarding.
d. Last date for purchase of Tender Documents on 15, August 1990.
e. Financial offers shall be Submitted to Government Tenders Directorate before 13.30 local time on Wednesday the 29 of August, 1990.

Chairman,
Central Tenders Committee
Government Tenders Directorate

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LA SEMAINE DE

Suleiman Sweiss

Liberté... Libertés!

Je ne cesse pas de le dire à mes amis: Je porte une estime profonde, voire une admiration pour la Révolution française qui vient de fêter son 201^e anniversaire. L'année dernière j'ai eu l'occasion, le 14 juillet, de voir les Français fêter le bicentenaire de la Révolution, place de la Bastille. Les jours et les semaines se sont succédés et je croyais que l'année 1989 ne connaîtrait pas de développements particuliers bien qu'elle arrive deux siècles après 1789! Le séisme politique qui a ravagé les pays de l'Europe de l'Est, les trois derniers mois de l'année dernière, a bien prouvé que les idéaux de 1789 sont toujours vivants.

La semaine dernière encore, le 26^e sommet de l'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine a adopté une résolution principale réaffirmant que «la démocratie doit être adoptée partout en Afrique».

Où est la situation des libertés dans notre pays? Il est certain qu'on ne peut pas faire le tour d'un sujet aussi vaste en quelques lignes ou en quelques pages. Nous prenons comme point d'appui l'interview que le député Ahmed Al-Azaydeh, président de la commission des libertés publiques au sein de la chambre des députés a accordée à notre confrère «Al-Dustour» le 13 juin dernier. Il a parlé des «nombreuses difficultés» que la commission a rencontrées dans son travail. Il affirme que «la plupart des administrations n'appliquent pas les directives gouvernementales dans le domaine de la réintégration des fonctionnaires démis de leur postes pour des raisons politiques. Il dénonce la «grande lenteur» avec laquelle on applique les mesures concernant les libertés publiques.

Ce sont quelques déclarations prononcées par M. Al-Azaydeh. Certes, cela ne veut pas dire que rien n'a été réalisé depuis novembre dernier. Nous avions l'occasion d'en évoquer précédemment. Mais l'amertume qui se cache derrière les propos du député s'explique par le fait que le progrès réalisé au niveau des libertés a été très limité et incertain. De plus les promesses faites par le gouvernement début janvier n'ont pas encore été tenues. A titre d'exemple, une promesse a été faite au parlement et au peuple selon laquelle les «lois martiales seront levées dans quatre à six mois». Le délai est expiré et le gel des lois martiales n'a pas été remplacé par une annulation de ces lois. Durant les mois précédents une trentaine de livres se sont vu interdits d'entrée dans le pays, dont un sur la crise de l'économie jordanienne.

Qu'avons nous fait pour supprimer l'immunité des décisions administratives du gouvernement, réforme indispensable pour rendre justice à des milliers de citoyens? Quelles sont les garanties accordées pour protéger les droits et les libertés des citoyens contre la violation des droits de l'homme?

Les citoyens comprennent que la solution des problèmes économiques prenne du temps. Mais, comment expliquer la lenteur dont parle M. Al-Azaydeh dans le domaine des libertés? Oui, nous jouissons de plus de liberté qu'avant novembre 1989, mais celle-ci n'est pas encore codifiée ni garantie définitivement. Surtout à la lumière des expériences vécues précédemment. Certains rapports publiés récemment sur la situation des droits de l'homme en Jordanie nous font réfléchir plus.

Je n'arrive pas à imaginer que la levée des lois martiales soit si compliquée et épineuse qu'on ne soit pas arrivé à la réaliser dans le délai des six mois promis par le premier ministre le 2 janvier dernier, devant les députés. Cela m'entraîne à me rappeler de la facilité et de la rapidité avec lesquelles on a décrété ces mêmes lois martiales, le 5 juin 1967.

Bref, il est temps d'attirer l'attention sur les effets négatifs qu'entraîne le piétinement de la situation des libertés chez nous. Déjà, certains milieux constatent peut-être hâtivement que le changement qui a eu lieu depuis l'automne dernier est de pure forme. Il n'y a pas encore de raisons valables pour être si pessimiste. Nous croyons résolument que le processus de démocratisation en cours est irréversible. Il faut toujours savoir défendre la démocratie. Celle-ci a toujours des ennemis, comme elle a toujours des amis.



France-Jordanie : plus solidaires que jamais

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, Le Jourdain dresse l'état des lieux des relations franco-jordaniennes: malgré un contexte difficile, elles sont au beau fixe.

Contre mauvaise fortune, bon cœur. C'est un peu l'esprit des relations franco-jordaniennes ces derniers temps.

La Jordanie est plongée dans une crise économique importante marquée par un des endettements les plus importants du monde (350% du PNB) et par la récente dévaluation du dinar. Côté français, l'attentat d'un individu illuminé contre deux autocars de touristes à Amman, le 21 mai dernier, a provoqué une émotion certaine sur le moment. Mais ces événements n'ont en rien entaché les relations économiques, culturelles et politiques entre les deux pays. Ils semblent même les avoir renforcés dans une certaine mesure.

La France a été très sensible à la solidarité et à la compassion des autorités et du peuple jordanien, qui ont tous condamné unanimement l'attentat et ont aidé l'Ambassade de France à ramener cette affaire aux proportions qu'elle méritait: celle d'un acte isolé sans aucune signification idéologique ou politique. Le roi Hussein a témoigné sa sympathie et celle de son peuple envers les malheureux touristes et les Français en général.

La politique française au Moyen Orient reçoit un accueil favorable des autorités d'Amman. On apprécie ici les prises de position de la France en faveur du droit du peuple palestinien à disposer d'un territoire. La politique française de dialogue avec l'OLP, caractérisée notamment par la rencontre entre le président François Mitterrand et Yasser Arafat à Paris, le 2 mai 1989, témoigne de l'intérêt porté par la France au sort du peuple palestinien. Signe des bonnes relations entre la France et la Jordanie, les fréquentes visites officielles ou privées du Roi Hussein à Paris qui prennent la forme de véritables réunions de travail efficaces et constructives. Depuis 1985, il ne s'est pas passé une année sans que sa Majesté ne rencontre le président Mitterrand à Paris. En sens inverse, François Mitterrand a effectué une visite officielle à Amman en juillet 1984 et de nombreuses visites de ministres ou hauts responsables français sont venues entretenir les relations franco-jordaniennes. La

Culture

L' dynamisme du CCF

Le Centre Culturel Français a été créé en 1964. Il reçoit des subventions du service culturel et vend des cours de français. Il a de ce fait une certaine autonomie financière, mais dépend de l'Ambassade de France. Le C.C.F. a commencé par une activité cinématographique, l'apprentissage de la langue française, et a organisé des expositions pour des artistes jordaniens. On y trouve une bibliothèque de 15.000 livres. Une semaine du film français a lieu chaque année, en présence des réalisateurs et acteurs des films projetés. Tous les lundis plusieurs personnes, membres ou non, se rassemblent à 18h au C.C.F. pour une table ronde. Elles conversent en français à propos de science, culture, art... dans le but d'améliorer leur pratique. Au premier étage une discothèque mise à la disposition des membres prête des bandes vidéo, des cassettes de musiques et des diapositives. Pour devenir membre du C.C.F. il suffit de payer une somme de 5JD qui sera rendue en cas d'annulation de l'abonnement.

France apprécie le travail du Roi Hussein pour la stabilité politique du Moyen-Orient et le Roi Hussein entretient de bonnes relations avec la France pour diversifier ses appuis dans le monde européen, au-delà des liens historiques qui unissent son pays à la Grande-Bretagne.

Le symbole de cette amitié franco-jordanienne devrait être, en novembre à Amman, la célébration du centenaire du général de Gaulle sous le parrainage du Roi Hussein.

Au-delà des relations politiques, la communication entre les deux peuples par le biais d'échanges linguistiques, culturels et scientifiques ne cesse de se développer, malgré l'austérité budgétaire qui n'a pas permis d'accroître le budget de la coopération française dans ce domaine. L'Etat français consacre 10 millions de francs cette année, comme l'an dernier à la coopération. La moitié de ce budget est affectée à l'aide scientifique et technique, avec des projets dans les domaines agricole, piscicole, électronique... A Aqaba, les phases d'études pour la création d'un élevage de bars (alors que la Jordanie importe la totalité du poisson qu'elle consomme) sont en train de s'achever avec l'assistance de Français et l'on devrait bientôt passer à la phase de la production en vraie grandeur et de la commercialisation.

En dehors des programmes en français fournis gratuitement à la Jordanie par le satellite de Canal

Paris d'une part et les universités du Yarmouk ou de Jordanie d'autre part.

Les relations économiques entre la Jordanie et la France auraient pu souffrir de la crise économique jordanienne. De fait la commission mixte chargée de travailler à développer les échanges économiques franco-jordaniens -prévue dans un accord commercial publié au Journal Officiel français il y a tout juste un an, le 14 juillet 1989- n'a toujours pas tenu sa première réunion. Pourtant, les ventes de produits jordaniens à la France et de produits français à la Jordanie n'ont cessé de s'accroître: ils se montent à 104.000F dans le premier cas (73% par rapport à 1988) et à 2,1 millions de F dans le second (40%). La Jordanie exporte des phosphates, de la potasse, des engrais chimiques et des fruits et légumes de contre-saison. La France exporte des produits agro-alimentaires (notamment du sucre et du poulet) ainsi que des produits pharmaceutiques, entre autres.

Malgré la crise, la Jordanie a acheté à la France six Airbus A310. Elle a également commandé six A320 dont deux ont déjà été livrés, et cinq A340 dont les livraisons commenceront à partir de 1995. Récemment, la Compagnie Royal Jordanian a acheté deux simulateurs de vol électroniques au groupe français Thomson. Elle les utilise pour la formation de ses propres pilotes mais elle les loue aussi pour celle des pilotes de compagnies étrangères, y compris Air-France, qui viennent donc à Amman accomplir leurs stages lorsque les simulateurs nationaux sont saturés.

Les vols réguliers qui relient plusieurs fois par semaine Amman à Paris symbolisent bien les liens et la communication entre les peuples qui unissent la Jordanie à la France. En 1989, 15.610 Français sont entrés en Jordanie soit 26% de plus qu'en 1988. Nous sommes encore derrière les Allemands, les Italiens et les Anglais, mais la progression montre bien que les Français sont de plus en plus nombreux à apprécier la chaleur et l'accueil du peuple jordanien.

Jean-Marc Bordes

Economie

Médicaments français made in Jordan

La grande multinationale française de chimie fine, Roussel Uclaf, a choisi Amman depuis 1987 pour couvrir cinq pays du Moyen-Orient: La Jordanie, le Liban, Chypre, la Syrie et l'Irak. «Convaincu» jusqu'à aujourd'hui d'envoyer des représentants, chargés de promouvoir et d'expliquer les principes de fonctionnement des médicaments Roussel Uclaf aux médecins des différents pays. Aujourd'hui, les médicaments Roussel Uclaf ne sont plus simplement vendus dans le monde arabe après avoir été importés de France: le groupe français vient de passer un accord de fabrication sous licence avec la société jordanienne Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (APM). L'intérêt pour nous, explique Christian Beaupré, directeur du bureau régional d'Amman est d'avoir un produit dont la présentation soit plus proche des attentes locales et donc plus compétitifs. Les patients lots de suppositoires et de piqûres anti-inflammatoires sont sortis des chaînes d'APM et doivent maintenant subir les contrôles de qualité jordaniens et français pour passer à la phase de production commerciale, à raison de 600.000 boîtes par an. Unique en son genre, cette expérience présente l'intérêt pour les Jordaniens de diminuer les importations et de créer des emplois locaux. Elle devrait être suivie d'autres accords du même genre: après les produits anti-inflammatoires, Roussel et APM envisagent déjà de fabriquer ensemble des antibiotiques...

Politique

De Gaulle prémonitoire

Dans une conférence de presse, en 1967, le général de Gaulle critiquait la prise de possession de territoires palestiniens par Israël durant la guerre des six jours. Certains propos et certaines mises en gardes du général sont encore étonnamment d'actualité aujourd'hui. En voici quelques extraits (le général parle du comportement guerrier de l'Etat d'Israël révélés par l'expédition de Suez, en 1956):

«L'action qu'il menait pour doubler sa population par l'immigration de nouveaux éléments, donnait à penser que le territoire qu'il avait acquis ne lui suffirait pas longtemps et qu'il serait porté, pour l'agrandir, à utiliser toute occasion qui se présenterait. (...) Bien sûr, nous conservons avec le Gouvernement israélien des rapports cordiaux et, même, nous lui fournissons pour sa défense éventuelle les armements qu'il demandait d'acheter, mais, en même temps, nous lui prodiguons des avis de modération, notamment à propos des litiges qui concernaient les eaux du Jourdain ou bien des escarmouches qui opposaient périodiquement les forces des deux camps...»

«On sait que la voix de la France n'a pas été entendue. Israël ayant attaqué, s'est emparé, en six jours de combat, des objectifs qu'il voulait atteindre. Maintenant, il organise, sur les territoires qu'il a pris, l'occupation qui ne peut aller sans oppression, répression, expulsions, et il s'y manifeste contre lui une résistance, qu'à son tour, il qualifie de terrorisme...»

EN BREF

CEE-Aide. La CEE va accorder une aide non remboursable d'un montant de 1,8 millions d'ECUs (2 millions de dollars) à la Jordanie. Cette somme est destinée à soutenir la politique d'éducation jordanienne par un programme triennal d'assistance technique et de formation à l'étranger.

Défense. La confrérie des Frères musulmans, qui dispose du quart des 80 sièges de la chambre des députés jordanienne, a appelé le gouvernement jordanien à entraîner les citoyens et à les armer afin de faire face à Israël. La confrérie réclame également l'annulation du festival de Jérusalem, qui a débuté mercredi et doit se terminer le 27 juillet, invitant les Jordaniens à le boycotter car elle estime que son maintien «représente un comportement désinvolte par rapport aux défis auxquels nous faisons face».

Islamistes. Les municipalités de la côte nranaise, dans l'ouest de l'Algérie, seront désormais privées de musique Raï, les nouveaux responsables communaux du Front Islamique de Salut (FIS) ayant décidé de «supprimer toutes les activités culturelles n'ayant aucune répercussion bénéfique sur la vie des citoyens» de la région. A la place de cette musique contestataire de «Chebs» (jeunes) chantant l'amour de la femme, le spleen et la révolte des jeunes défavorisés au sein de la société algérienne, les nouvelles autorités municipales cherchent à promouvoir une autre musique, la «Ounouchda al-Watania al-Islamiya» (chanson patriotique islamique).

Pétrole. Les cinq pays arabes du Golfe membres de l'OPEP (Arabie Saoudite, Irak, Koweït, Emirats Arabes Unis et Qatar) ont décidé d'accorder désormais la priorité au réajustement du prix du brut. Bagdad envisage même la possibilité d'une coordination directe avec l'Iran dans le domaine pétrolier, après des années de conflit entre les deux pays. Cette décision des cinq pays qui assurent près de 60% de la production de l'OPEP, est le résultat d'une série de tractations difficiles menées depuis plusieurs semaines.

Sommet. Les sept pays les plus industrialisés de l'Occident ont reconnu, à l'issue de leur sommet à Houston (USA), la nécessité d'effectuer «des réductions substantielles et progressives du soutien et de la protection» de leurs agricultures. Les sept ont par ailleurs demandé à plusieurs organisations internationales d'effectuer une étude des besoins d'assistance de l'URSS, en consultation étroite avec la Commission des communautés européennes.

URSS. Boris Eltsine, président de la fédération de Russie, a annoncé jeudi soir devant le 28^e Congrès du Parti Communiste d'Union Soviétique (PCUS), qu'il quitterait le parti communiste. «Dans le cadre du passage de la société au multipartisme et de mes obligations en tant que président de la fédération de Russie, a-t-il indiqué, je ne peux accepter la candidature au comité central du PCUS et je demande à quitter le parti pour avoir d'avantage de possibilités de mener une action efficace et montrer ma disponibilité à travailler en collaboration avec tous les autres partis et organisations sociales.»

Déficit. La valeur des importations soviétiques a dépassé en 1989 celle des exportations de l'URSS de 3,3 milliards de roubles (5,2 milliards de dollars), pour la première fois depuis 1976. Les importations soviétiques ont augmenté de 7,1 milliards de roubles (11,3 milliards de dollars) par rapport à 1988. Il s'agit principalement de biens de consommation.

Albanais. Dix jours après s'être réfugiés dans les missions diplomatiques d'Italie, de RFA et de France dans la capitale albanaise, environ 4.000 Albanais ont pris depuis jeudi le chemin de l'exil, à la faveur d'une importante opération d'évacuation par mer vers l'Italie et vers la France. Toutes les dispositions ont été prises pour les accueillir en France. Une fois installés, lavés, nourris, reposés et habillés de neuf, ils devront remplir les premières formalités pour leur installation en France. Et tenter de s'habituer à leur nouvelle existence de liberté et d'exil.

Cubains. Un Cubain âgé de 27 ans s'est réfugié mercredi soir à l'Ambassade d'Espagne à La Havane pour demander l'asile politique dans un pays occidental. Ce nouveau réfugié porte à quinze le nombre total de Cubains actuellement réfugiés dans des représentations étrangères à La Havane. Quatorze se sont en effet réfugiés dans l'Ambassade de Tchécoslovaquie, dont sept depuis lundi.

Rideau. Une petite leure de culture française va s'éteindre à New-York: le cinéma «Paris», qui projetait depuis 42 ans principalement des films francophones, va devoir fermer ses portes faute d'avoir pu s'entendre avec son propriétaire pour le renouvellement du bail. Construit par la compagnie française Pathé en 1948 au cœur de Manhattan, à deux pas de l'hôtel Plaza, ce cinéma d'art et d'essai fermait à la fin août. Le Paris, qui projetait actuellement «Les enfants du Paradis», avait été inauguré par la grande actrice Marlene Dietrich.

Johnny. Le chanteur de rock français, Johnny Halliday, a épousé lundi en troisième noces, à l'âge de 47 ans, une jeune femme de 19 ans, Adeline Blondieau, devant des personnalités du show business et plusieurs milliers d'admirateurs en délire. Après le traditionnel «Oui», prononcé timidement par Johnny, et de façon plus appuyée par Adeline, visiblement moins impressionnée, les mariés ont été ovationnés par plus de 3.000 fans massés de part et d'autre de la mairie de Ramatuelle.

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Aqaba

Escale jordanienne de la Marine française

Pompon rouge, col bleu et pantalon blanc, vous les avez peut-être croisés, la semaine dernière, dans les rues d'Aqaba ou d'Amman. Ce sont les marins du «Marnes» et du «Commandant Ducuing», deux navires militaires français venus faire escale pour quatre jours dans le port d'Aqaba.

Immense bâtiment de 18.000 tonnes, le «Marnes» a l'envergure et la bonhomie d'un bon père de famille. C'en est un en quel-

que sorte. C'est lui qui nourrit la flotte de l'Océan indien, la ravitaillant régulièrement en vivres, en carburant et en munitions. C'est lui aussi qui incarne l'autorité sur l'ensemble de cette flotte puisque, en plus de ses fonctions de ravitailleur, il présente la particularité d'accueillir en permanence à son bord le commandement général des forces maritimes de l'Océan indien avec tout son Etat-Major.

Ce cas unique de cohabitation

s'explique par le fait que l'Océan indien est la seule zone maritime où la France n'avait pas d'installations terrestres où puisse s'établir un poste de commandement. Plutôt que d'en construire un de toute pièce, on a donc préféré l'installer sur le ravitailleur, moyennant quelques aménagements.

«Ce qui compte pour exercer le commandement», explique l'Amiral Pierre Bonnot, c'est d'avoir de bonnes liaisons avec les bateaux que l'on commande et avec les autorités de métropole. Dès lors que ces liaisons sont bonnes et elles le sont-elles, en déplacement permanent sur notre zone. Via satellite, en effet, le bateau est en liaison constante avec la France, que ce soit par téléphone, fac-simile ou télex.

Pour approvisionner tous ses bateaux, le ravitailleur «Marnes» fait lui-même le plein de ses immenses soutes, tous les deux mois environ, à Djibouti son port d'attache. Il y reçoit des conteneurs de vivres acheminés depuis la France par avion. Il remplit ses cuves d'eau et de pétrole... Et le voilà reparti pour deux mois de mer, à la disposition de tous les bateaux militaires (français ou alliés) qui souhaitent faire appel à lui.

Le «Marnes» peut ravitailler jusqu'à trois bâtiments simultanément, l'un à babord, l'autre à tribord et le dernier à l'arrière. Lorsque les quatre bateaux sont en place et avancent à la même vitesse dans la même direction, le ravitailleur large de gros tubes de caoutchouc que les ravitailles adaptent sur leurs propres soutes. Les liquides passent alors automatiquement d'un réservoir à l'autre à un débit de 600m³ à l'heure. Transportant des matières inflammables, le «Marnes» est équipé d'un système de sécurité qui remplit, au fur et à mesure, le vide qui se fait dans ses cuves avec du CO₂ pour éviter le contact explosif du pétrole restant avec l'air.

Toutes ces machineries, toutes ces fonctions (commande du bateau, ravitaillement, commandement...) nécessitent un équipage important. Deux-cents personnes vivent en permanence sur le «Marnes», qui prend de ce fait des allures de ville flottante. Sur ce que les marins surnomment eux-mêmes la «place du village», au coeur du bateau, on trouve un

salon de coiffure, un bureau de poste, un «cinéma» (en fait, une salle vidéo) et une «mairie» (le service administratif qui se charge de toutes les formalités des marins). Le navire a ses cuisiniers, son boulanger, ses électriciens, sa blanchisserie. Il dispose même d'un hôpital, avec un chirurgien et un docteur, dont peuvent bénéficier les malades graves de n'importe quel bateau, qui sont acheminés d'urgence par l'hélicoptère du «Marnes», passager permanent, lui aussi, avec son pilote et ses mécaniciens.

Doté d'un studio de télévision, le bateau confectionne lui-même son propre journal télévisé, avec des nouvelles du bord et du monde entier, grâce aux dépêches de l'AFP reçues en temps réel. Il y a même un jeu télévisé fait sur place, des documentaires et des films tous les soirs.

Complément indispensable du ravitailleur, qui n'est pas équipé pour se défendre seul, l'avisos escorte fait office, en quelque sorte, de garde du corps, bardé d'armements divers. Ils sont trois dans l'Océan indien, qui escortent le «Marnes» à tour de rôle.

Le «Commandant Ducuing» est celui qui accompagne le «Marnes» à Aqaba. Là, l'espace est réduit et rentabilisé au maximum: les 90 hommes de l'équipage vivent dans une promiscuité extrême mais bien acceptée, avec des lits de quatre étages superposés et de petites armoires, d'un mètre de haut sur cinquante centimètres de large et de profondeur, pour ranger leurs affaires personnelles.

L'armement aussi semble à l'étroit sur un si petit bâtiment: une tourelle avec un canon de 100mm pour riposter en cas d'attaque aérienne, deux lanceurs de missiles mer-mer et deux lance-torpilles de chaque côté du bateau. A quoi s'ajoute une série de radars et de sonars détectant avions, bateaux et sous-marins des environs, qui sont représentés automatiquement sur une table traçante électronique.

Un univers passionnant pour tous ceux qui ont en la chance de visiter ces deux bâtiments à l'occasion de leur escale. Un univers auquel les matelots ont été bien contents d'échapper quelques jours pour s'évader à Pétra, à Amman ou dans le Wadi-Rum.

Jean-Marc Bordes

Femmes jordanien

Unies pour vivre mieux

Développer les aptitudes des femmes, mettre en place des comités qui les représentent dans les réunions locales, arabes et internationales, leur faciliter la vie de tous les jours, c'est la mission que s'est donnée l'Union des femmes jordanien. Après un peu moins de dix ans de fonctionnement, l'association connaît un franc succès.

Fondée en 1981, l'Union des femmes est une organisation féminine qui réunit des associations, des clubs, des institutions sociales et des membres libres.

Elle offre, dans vingt-cinq centres en Jordanie, des services aux femmes dans le but d'améliorer leur situation économique, sociale et professionnelle, ainsi que des programmes destinés à la formation des femmes non qualifiées. Le but de ces programmes est d'encourager l'apprentissage du travail manuel, artisanal et traditionnel. Ces centres se consacrent notamment à la broderie folklorique et populaire, au tissage sur métiers à tisser, à la couture, à la coupe des habits, à la dactylographie en arabe et en anglais, à l'apprentissage du maquillage, de la coiffure. Ces centres comprennent aussi des cours d'alphabétisation.

35 associations, six clubs et quelques milliers de membres libres de toutes les régions du royaume adhèrent à cette union, dont les bureaux administratifs se trouvent à Amman, mais qui a des succursales à Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba, Balqa, Karak, Tafila et Mafrak.

Pour servir la femme, l'union a mis en place, en 1989, un projet de production alimentaire. A l'origine, il s'agissait d'une simple cuisine dans laquelle travaillaient deux ouvrières. Avec l'aide financière de l'Organisation économique de l'Ouest asiatique (l'Organisation des Nations Unies, ASCO) et l'aide de l'Union des femmes jordanien, ce Projet de Produc-

tion Alimentaire (PPA) présente aujourd'hui des repas tout prêts à des prix raisonnables, pour les femmes qui travaillent.

Cet organisme ne recherche pas le profit. Son but est d'assurer de l'emploi à plusieurs femmes, de constituer une caisse de crédit pour aider les femmes pauvres à réaliser de petites entreprises productives et d'augmenter les revenus de l'Union pour l'aider à accomplir d'autres missions.

Huit personnes sont employées à temps plein, de 8h à 14h au PPA: la directrice, une comptable, trois cuisinières, deux ouvrières et un chauffeur. Leurs produits se vendent bien, aux hommes comme aux femmes. Les ventes ont crû de 30% environ depuis le démarrage du projet grâce au soin apporté à la propreté de la préparation et à la qualité des produits utilisés.

Le PPA accueille des femmes qui souhaitent se renseigner sur la manière de confectionner les 17 plats qu'il propose, du Koubba à 150 Fils au Chichbarak à 2,5JD les 100, en passant par la tourte à la viande, aux épinards et au thym (10 Fils, la part) ou la pizza (120 Fils).

Sur commande, on peut aussi demander au PPA plusieurs types de plats. Des productions cuisinées à réchauffer, ou congelées pour être ressorties le jour venu.

Pour se procurer les plats du PPA, il suffit de téléphoner au 670 325. Vous ferez ainsi une bonne action en faveur des femmes jordanien.

Ghada Al-Hadidi

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Jazz à Jerash

Un maître à quatre mailloches

Bien qu'il ait la même forme, qu'il soit construit sur les mêmes principes, et que ses lames répondent à des coups de baguette identiques, le vibraphone dont Gary Burton jouera les 15 et 16 juillet à Jerash, est bien plus qu'un xylophone amélioré. Fait de métal et de bois, cet instrument de percussion inventé en 1920 aux Etats-Unis est un vrai enfant du 20^e siècle. Ses résonances sont réglées par un système électro-mécanique. Il exige une agilité de jeu à couper le souffle.

Gary Burton a le titre de maître contemporain du vibraphone joué depuis une trentaine d'années. Il avait dix-sept ans quand il commença; il est âgé de 46 ans aujourd'hui. Fêté par les critiques de jazz, il a fait plus que faire preuve de virtuosité pour valoir leurs éloges. Il a accompli un pas sans précédent à l'égard de cet instrument: il l'a transformé d'instrument de percussion en instrument de mélodie.

Ce fut un grand bond, au cours de son intégration dans les jazz-bands, le vibraphone a connu des maîtres (Lionel Hampton, Red Norvo, Milt Jackson) mais c'est grâce à un prodigieux technique que Burton a pu amplifier les ressources musicales de l'instrument. Un emploi simultané de quatre mailloches au lieu des deux baguettes traditionnelles l'a mené à la création d'harmonies insolites.

Châliné par Burton, le vibraphone offre les mêmes richesses qu'un piano. Cette façon originale d'en jouer remonte à ses débuts musicaux.

Bill Evans, pianiste novateur des années 1950, l'évéilla à une conception pianistique de l'instrument. Ce seront des rouades lestes que Burton révélera dans son vibraphone. Quant à son raffinement mélodique, il le doit au stage (1964-1966) qu'il avait fait avec le grand sax, Stan Getz.

A Jerash, Burton jouera avec le groupe qu'il a formé l'année dernière, The Gary Burton Quintet. Tandis que la batterie de Martin Richards et la basse de Larry Grenadier se limiteront au rôle traditionnel de pulseurs de rythme, le vibraphone de Burton entreprendra des dialogues harmoniques avec deux instruments de mélodie, la guitare de Wolfgang Muthspiel et le sax ténor de Don McCaslin. Parmi leurs mélodies, ils interpréteront des compositions d'un ancien du groupe, le superstar du jazz rock, Pat Metheny. Que ce dernier soit au programme de Burton va sans dire, car le style jazz-rock porte la signature de Burton, qui fut, en 1967, le devancier de ce mouvement des années 70, quand il ajouta à ses compositions de jazz des éléments de country et de rock, remarquant qu'ils avaient tous des racines communes dans l'histoire de la musique afro-américaine.

Pour ceux à qui le mot jazz-rock évoque une soirée rauque et bruyante, et qui espèrent y participer, mieux vaut qu'ils restent chez eux: ils seront déçus. Le Gary Burton Quintet a un autre dessin, une soirée de grand calme. Rassemblé autour de vibraphoniste scintillant, ce groupe promet que, de son jeu se déchaîneront des mélodies apaisantes à l'extrême.

Des harmonies. Les harmonies d'une soirée d'été.

Sami Kamal

CONCERTS

Jazz-France L'Ambassade de France présentera au festival de Jerash, avec le concours d'Air-France, le trio de guitare de Christian Escoudé, accompagné pour l'occasion par le grand accordéoniste, Marcel Azzola.
Jerash, les samedi 21 et dimanche 22 juillet à 21h30. Prix des places: 3JD.

Jazz-USA. Le Gary Burton Quintet présente ses meilleurs morceaux au festival de Jerash à l'initiative du Centre Culturel Américain. Voir Focus.
Jerash, les dimanche 15 et lundi 16 juillet, de 21h30 à 23h. Prix des places: 3 JD.

DIVERS

Guerre. Série documentaire télévisée sur la Deuxième guerre mondiale, diffusée en douze épisodes de deux heures chacun, à raison d'un par jour. Deux séances quotidiennes: à 10h et à 17h. Centre culturel britannique, tous les jours ouvrables des mois de juillet et août.

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Monest

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: fredonnes. 2: cuire; confort. 3: au bout des pieds. 4: dans la vessie; réjouit. 5: pierres encastrées; brème. 6: donne la mort; ancienne Saïde. 7: vieilles colères; annonce. 8: couche. 9: avant approuvé; sujets. 10: dans la fleur.

Verticalement.

A: craque sous la dent. B: abomination; note. C: séduire. D: réfré; virage de ski. E: rangées. F: hypothèse; département français. G: fait voler les Américains; d. H: négation; décorée. I: spécialité; sacré. J: plantée, épreuve.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 18:

Horizontalement.

1: instrument. 2: mortu; lui. 3: purement. 4: os; sténos. 5: ut; rue. 6: saleté; otter. 7: INA; salira. 8: bête; élan. 9: été. 10: essouffés.

Verticalement.

A: impossible. B: nous; anc. C: sûr; plates. D: très; été. E: rumeurs; ca. F: usent. G: ni; où. H: entortille. E: nu; ruera. J: tisserand.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

"Sauvage et beau" (1984).

Film de Frédéric Rossif. Un superbe documentaire entièrement consacré à la vie des animaux sauvages du monde entier. Centre Culturel Français, lundi 16 juillet à 20h00.

"The African Queen", de C.S.

Forester, avec Humphrey Bogart et Katherine Hepburn (Noir et Blanc). L'histoire d'un marin solitaire et bourru qui embarque à son bord une belle missionnaire. Ils descendent ensemble un fleuve africain long et tumultueux pour tenter de saboter un navire allemand pendant la première guerre mondiale. Centre américain, dimanche 25 et lundi 19 juillet, à 19h00 (en anglais).

"The company of Wolves",

film fantastique qui évoque, sous forme d'un conte, la prise de conscience progressive d'une jeune fille devenant adulte. L'histoire se passe dans un étrange paysage onirique: une forêt mystérieuse hantée par des loups féroces. Le film est déconseillé aux enfants. British Council, le mercredi 15 à 18h.

"Frevel", Film policier de Peter

Fleischmann, avec Angelika Stute et Isolda Barth. Un policier réputé pour sa perspicacité et son efficacité, est consulté pour une affaire de meurtre alors qu'il s'apprête à partir en vacances. Une jeune mère a tué son enfant. Il laisse sa famille partir sans lui et se plonge de plus en plus profond dans cette étrange affaire. Institut Goethe, le mardi 17 à 20h00.

Ciné-club. Séance quotidienne à

20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00. Dimanche: "Time after time" (1980), de Nicholas Meyer, avec Malcolm McDowell. Lundi: "summer night sex comedy" (1982), de et avec Woody Allen.

Mardi: "Ragtime" (1982), de

Milos Forman.

Mercredi: "Melvin and Howard"

(1981), de Jonathan Demme, avec Mary Steenburgen. Jeudi: "Crosby Creek" (1982), de Martin Reed, avec Mary Steenburgen.

Vendredi: "Romantic Comedy"

(1982), d'Arthur Hiller, avec Dolly Move.

Samedi: "Dead of Winter",

d'Arthur Pen, avec Mary Steenburgen.

Films en version originale. Route de l'Université, présentée à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis gratuite à gauche. Le club-club se trouve à environ 300 m., sur la gauche de la route.

DIMANCHE

17h45 - Denver, le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.

18h15 - Les Mailloches. Documentaire.

18h40 - C'est du cinéma. Documentaire.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

LUNDI

18h10 - L'homme et la nature. Série

documentaire consacrée aujourd'hui aux terres humides.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

17h50 - Fusion. Magazine.

18h10 - Des chiffres et des lettres. Jeu.

18h30 - Tel Père, Tel Fils. Série

humoristique.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Selah Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - L'ami Mampassant. Série sur

la vie de cet auteur français né en 1820 et mort en 1893. Aujourd'hui: «Histoire».

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

JEUDI

17h50 - "Mollérissimo" (12): dessin

animé.

18h10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres. Jeu.

18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons: émission de variétés françaises du

passé, présentée par Pascal Sevran.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sirocco. Le magazine de l'évasion.

VENREDI

17h20 - "Nid d'espions", film d'Ale-

xandre Alov et Vladimir Naoumov,

avec Kurt Jurgen et Alain Delon.

Télégram 1943. En pleine conférence

au sommet, Churchill, Roosevelt et

Staline échappent à une tentative

d'assassinat par les services secrets

allemands. 37 ans plus tard, un docu-

ment confidentiel est retrouvé dans

une vente aux enchères, qui fait

rebondir l'affaire...

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - La révolution de l'intelli-

gence. Série documentaire sur l'his-

toire de la science.

SAMEDI

17h45 - "Champs Elysées". Emission

de variétés présentée par Michel

Drucker, avec le chanteur Michel

Berger en invité vedette.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Documentaire éducatif: La

vie des poissons.

PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

M'illumino d'immense

Ave Egeria,

1939-1940. Il y a des mois que mes parents restent collés à la radio-ondes-courtes pour entendre les nouvelles. On parle de guerre, la voix du speaker arrive intermittente, d'un ton irréal. Nonna n'écoute pas. La guerre est inévitable, elle ne se fait aucune illusion. Elle s'y entend, elle: mon grand-père (chirurgien militaire) a connu les campagnes d'Afrique et le premier conflit mondial. Elle trouve folle la mégalomanie des hommes au pouvoir, mais elle a appris à vivre la réalité avec force et grande dignité. Le seul bruit qu'elle ne traduira jamais en notes est celui des coups de feu, des bombes: «ce n'est certainement pas de la musique» dit-elle les lèvres pincées. Sa haine de la guerre se cristallise en haine des uniformes et, de ceux-ci, le détail qui l'énervait le plus sont les souliers blancs. Elle qui adore la musique n'aime pas la Butterfly parce que «cette sorte commet un suicide par amour d'un type qui s'amène avec des souliers blancs!». Quand on lui fait remarquer que grand-père aussi portait des souliers de cette couleur, «il les détestait autant que moi» répond-elle et la discussion s'arrête là.

Nonna, Maman, mon frère (deux ans et demi) et moi sommes rapatriés. On nous embarque à Haifa sur le Calitea. Le bateau est pris à Malte dans le port de Lavalletta. Un autre bateau «Le Rodi» qui est là dans les mêmes conditions, se sabordera après que l'équipage et les passagers aient été transférés sur le Calitea qui, du coup, est plein comme un oeuf. L'eau et la nourriture sont rationnées. On entend la déclaration de guerre de Mussolini dans les cales. Les Italiens bombardent le port chaque jour, plusieurs fois par jour. On suit en enfonçant légèrement la tête dans les épaules le sifflement de chaque bombe et, quand elle éclate un peu plus loin, on pousse un soupir de soulagement. Il fait chaud. Dans le silence général, la voix du docteur Balcet -l'assistant de Papa qui rentre en Italie avec nous- détaille au profit de mon petit frère, les noms des doigts de la main: Pouce... index... majeur... annulaire... auriculaire..... Pouce... index... majeur... annulaire... auriculaire, en une sorte de rengaine monotone et anesthésiante. Maman refuse de descendre dans les cales. Elle et le père Baldi, franciscain de Jérusalem, continuent à jouer aux cartes sur le pont. Aujourd'hui encore, je me demande pourquoi on nous faisait descendre dans les cales: pour y trouver la mort des rats? Finalement, le bateau dont les passagers sont surtout des femmes et des enfants est laissé libre de reprendre son voyage vers l'Italie. Pendant la nuit, il s'arrête de nouveau. Les passagers réveillés brusquement se réunissent craintifs. Le capitaine tranquillise tout le monde: il a appelé un dragueur de mines, il se méfie. On trouve en effet dix-huit mines sur notre route.

On arrive à Syracuse. Maman dit que nous sommes très sales, que nous sentons mauvais, les cheveux poisseux. Elle me fait cadeau d'une bulle en verre qu'il faut secouer pour jouer du spectacle merveilleux de la neige qui tombe sur une petite Madone toute bleue. A Syracuse, des bataillons de moustiques bien armés nous dévorent en nous faisant bouillir le visage et les yeux. Nonna se fait donner du basilic et remplit nos lits de ces feuilles aromatiques. A Rome, nous sommes accueillis par les Bartoccini. Lui avait été le premier archéologue italien en Jordanie et avait fouillé la citadelle d'Amman. Sa belle-soeur, Madame Vecchia Valieri est une arabisante très connue. Les Bartoccini sont plein d'espoir de revoir leur fils porté disparu sur Malte. Ils l'attendront longtemps, même bien après la fin de la guerre. Bruno, enfant choyé et chéri de mes parents aussi, a été l'un des pilotes qui lâchaient les bombes sur Lavalletta et a disparu. Maman et Nonna ressentent la chose comme s'il s'était sacrifié pour nous sauver la vie: elles ont presque honte d'être vivantes. Elles n'oublieront jamais.

A chaque déplacement, Maman pleure longtemps. Je ferai ma première communion à Senigallia, dans les Marches. Pour tester ma préparation, le prêtre me demande si «l'acqua di colonia» (eau de cologne en italien s'écrit et se lit comme «eau de colonie») peut servir pour baptiser. «Naturellement que oui» je réponds et pense que ce vieux hibou a du toupet: il considère l'eau italienne meilleure que celle des colonies! On rit de moi à mon grand désarroi; on raconte la chose à qui veut bien l'entendre.

En octobre, je rentre pour la première fois dans une école. A Turin. L'institutrice est formidable. Elle devance le temps d'une vingtaine d'années au moins. Sa famille qui est probablement faite de braves petits bourgeois quelque peu limités la considère comme folle. Elle ne nous fait rien étudier par coeur qu'on n'ait pas bien compris d'abord. Elle adore la poésie et nous souligne la musicalité de la phrase, des syllabes, le choix des mots. Au programme établi, elle ajoute deux poèmes de Giuseppe Ungaretti. «Comme toi, me dit-elle, il est né au désert». Ce poète n'était connu que des intellectuels avisés, en cette époque. Les poèmes sont très courts, mais elle va nous expliquer pendant toute une année scolaire ce qu'ils pourront signifier dans notre vie. Avec des mots tout simples, à notre portée, elle nous fait cadeau de son interprétation de ces vers:

«Ma le mie urla
«Periscom
«Come fulmini
«La campana fioca
«Del cielo

(Mes cris
Blessent
Tels l'é

Lemond, Breukink turn Tour de France upside down

ST ETIENNE, France (R) — A remarkable break-away by last year's Tour de France winner Greg Lemond and Dutch rider Eric Breukink turned this year's race upside down on a sweltering hot day Saturday.

The 13th stage from Villard-de-Lans was expected to be a leisurely 149-kilometre passage from the Alps to the Massif Central over fairly undemanding terrain.

But Lemond, chasing his third

tour victory, had other ideas. Pursued by Breukink, he attacked like a man possessed and finally left the two runaway tour leaders Claudio Chiappucci of Italy and Ronan Pensec of France stranded.

Chiappucci, who took the yellow jersey in Thursday's time trial, trailed in four minutes 53 seconds behind and Pensec saw his chances of overall victory evaporate when he struggled in some seven minutes 47 seconds down.

Chiappucci retained his yellow jersey but found his lead over Breukink slashed from six minutes 55 seconds to just two minutes two seconds.

Lemond lies a most dangerous third, just two minutes 34 seconds behind with Pensec fourth at 4:11 and Pedro Delgado of Spain, the 1988 tour winner, fifth at 4:39.

Delgado counter-attacked de-

sperately as Lemond and Breukink threatened to go well clear and finally limited the damage to 30 seconds.

The stage was won by Eduardo Chozas of Spain but that was almost a minor detail of the incredible day's racing.

The Spaniard was in a bunch of five, including Lemond and Breukink, who came in together in a time of three hours 20 minutes 12 seconds. Breukink placed second, Andy Hampsten of the United States third. Lemond was fifth behind Rober-

to Conti of Italy. Lemond, who barely looked tired after his brilliant ride, said: "I'm happy. After what I did, I hoped for more than 30 seconds on Delgado. I improvised my attack — you can't plan these things."

"Chiappucci had been following me as if he was glued to my wheel. But when I attacked, he wasn't there anymore."

With an uncomfortable ride Sunday through the Massif Central and a daunting cross through the Pyrenees to come Tuesday, Chiappucci's chances of holding off the likes of Breukink, Lemond and Delgado now look very slim.

Pensec, who held the yellow jersey for two days before surrendering it to the Italian, had his final fling in front of large crowds

lining the route to celebrate the French national holiday, Bastille Day.

He stormed away on the gentle slopes of the Col d'Arodix and gained one minute 24 seconds on Chiappucci, a margin which would have given him back the race lead.

But it turned out to be his swansong. Lemond and a group of pursuers caught him with 45 kilometres to go and he could not sustain their furious pace on a day when temperatures rose to around 35 degrees Celsius.

The American had a bunch of 13 other riders with him at that stage but one by one they fell back until they were down to five with another small group led by Delgado and Tour of Italy winner Gianni Bugno just behind on the descent into St Etienne.

Lemond's magnificent ride, which brought back memories of his tour-de-force in last year's race, was an apt response to widespread media criticism of his supposed failure to take the initiative.

Breukink and Delgado will have other ideas but the American is again the rider to beat in the race he has made his own.

For the experienced Chozas, it was a fourth Tour de France stage win. He also won a stage in this year's Tour of Italy and took victory in this season's Ruts Del Sol.

The race continues Sunday with the 14th stage over 205 kilometres from Le Puy-en-Velay to Millau.



Swiss customs officers applaud while the pack of the tour cyclists cross the Swiss border to join Geneva end of the ninth stage.

E. German clubs to join Bundesliga next year

BONN (Agencies) — West Germany's soccer federation has invited East German clubs to join Bundesliga in the 1991-92 season, a year earlier than previously agreed, because of the rapid pace of political unification.

The decision at a meeting in Frankfurt followed pressure from East Germany, which urged a rapid merger to stem a damaging exodus of its best players to wealthy West German clubs.

"Football must now adapt to the more rapid pace of political unification," Federation President Hermann Neuberg said.

East German national trainer Eduard Geyer said the move was inevitable and would be widely welcomed in East Germany.

But he added: "I am a bit worried about our coaches. I don't know if the West Germans will want us."

East German League Secretary Volker Nickchen said: "Our league has long held the view that football should not lag behind political developments."

The West German also proposed that East Germany should withdraw from qualifying matches for the 1992 European championships and Olympics.

The East German Federation has already said it might withdraw from the European championships. East Germany is due to play World Cup winners West Germany in a qualifying match in Leipzig on Nov. 21.

The two federations will discuss the future again next Thursday.

Mansell scorches to pole for British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell claimed his second successive pole and 14th of his career Saturday when he clocked the fastest time in final qualifying for the British Grand Prix.

Mansell, driving a Ferrari, lapped the 4.78 kilometre Silverstone Circuit in one minute 07.428 seconds to outstrip overnight leader Ayrton Senna's Friday time by six tenths of a second.

His average speed was 255.192 kph and his lap time was the third fastest recorded on the circuit.

Mansell's performance showed clearly that his Ferrari team had been able to overcome the difficulties they had experienced Friday when his engine was down on power and he angrily left the team garage without a word.

Mansell will share the front row of the grid for Sunday's race with Brazilian Ayrton Senna's McLaren. Senna was unable to improve his time Saturday in the windier and cooler conditions.

Senna's McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger was also unable to produce an improved time. He finished third-quickest overall and shares the second row of the

grid with Belgian Thierry Boutsen, driving a Williams.

Mansell's Ferrari team mate Alain Prost improved his time to move up from sixth overnight to fifth. Prost will start alongside his compatriot Jean Alesi who hurled his Ford V-8 powered Tyrrell round the track in remarkable fashion.

Mansell praised the Ferrari team for their efforts in overcoming Friday's problems to give him the pole he had hoped for.

He said: "It was one of those laps where you have to give full commitment and even when you do you need everything to be all right."

"When I came to the start-finish line it was a good job I had seat belts on because I almost jumped out of the car. I couldn't believe the time."

"It was probably one of the most special laps of my whole career."

The session, which began late because of a delay during the morning free session caused by an accident involving Italian Stefano Modena's Brabham, was an exciting one right to the finish as the big crowd waited to see if Senna could overhaul Mansell's time.

Soviet grandmaster wins

MANILA (R) — Soviet grandmaster Boris Gelfand beat fellow Soviet Jaan Elfvist on a tie-break Saturday in the 13th and final round to win the Manila World Interzonal Chess Championship.

The top 11 players in the 64-entrant, Swiss-style tournament qualify for the 1991 candidates round matches which will choose

the challenger to fight current champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union in the 1993 World Championship.

The qualifiers included India's Viswanathan Anand, who drew his final game with Soviet Vassily Ivanchuk in 12 moves, and Britain's Nigel Short who beat the white-playing Soviet Mikhail Gurevich in 42 moves.

passenger Nina Walsh, the Soviet-born wife of the president of the Seattle organising committee for the games.

Although they left the Soviet Union Friday, it was still Thursday when they crossed the date-line — the day before they had been permitted entry.

U.S. fighter planes intercepted them about 160 kilometres north-west of Nome, Alaska, and escorted them to Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage.

"We had picked them up on long-range radar as unknown tracks We knew what they

were when we went up to get them," said Captain Monica Aloisio, spokeswoman for the air force. "But we were expecting them tomorrow."

The planes stayed at Elmendorf until late Thursday, unable to get U.S. State Department permission to proceed to Seattle. Bob Walsh called Andy Card, special assistant to U.S. President George Bush, and Card called the U.S. Defence Department.

Escorted by two U.S. F-15 fighter planes, the three planes finally arrived in Seattle Thursday night.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A YAMNAN HIRSCH
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THE TIMING IS RIGHT

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 5
♥ A K 6
♦ 9 8 6 4 3
♣ K 9

EAST
♠ Q 6
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ Q 10 7
♣ Q J 8 6

SOUTH
♠ 7 4 3
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ A K 2
♣ 10

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
Looking at all four hands it might seem that, at four hearts, declarer must lose two trump tricks, a club and either a diamond or a spade. But watch what happens with imaginative play.

Note South's decision to jump to the heart game. With a weak six-card major suit and unbalanced distribution South had no desire to play in no trump, and a jump to three hearts would suggest either that a no trump contract was a viable alternative or, if South were to

remove three no trump to four hearts, that a heart slam was possible.

West led the jack of spades, won in dummy. What seemed like a pinball posed a major problem when West, at trick two, discarded a club on the ace of hearts. After some thought, declarer uncovered a line which, with the blessings of Dame Fortune, would allow him to scrape home. It would require West to hold the ace of clubs and specifically two diamonds.

After coming to hand with the king of diamonds declarer cashed the ace and led a club toward the king. West climbed up with the ace to play another spade, taken by the table's remaining high spade. A diamond was discarded on the king of clubs and a diamond was ruffed, setting up dummy's diamonds.

The ace of trumps provided an entry to dummy and a winning diamond was led. Whether or not East ruffed declarer would discard his spade loser. The only tricks the defenders collected were two trumps and the ace of clubs.

Note that declarer will go down if he does not cash both diamond honors after first testing trumps. He will be an entry short to establish and cash a diamond.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 15, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Difficult aspects to effect bring delays in the A.M. seeding obstacles and limitations in your path of practical accomplishment. Afternoon you enjoy the goodwill of influential persons.

drag on you today but if you get them behind you now, you are free for more important matters and feel relieved.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have put off answering some messages and some communications so seize an opportunity this day that is beneficial for you to attend to them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your attention should be focused upon money and possessions today so look at every phase of how such interests can be improved for sometime to come.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are very much concerned today about your own personal progress and advancement and should concentrate upon upgrading wherever possible.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now are able to quietly organize your most ambitious plans for the future that you can shortly bring them into the open, make a success of them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider what your most long range subjective aims have been and then consider how you can best make them an actual part of your life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about your worldly standing and your public position and just what you can do in the days ahead to make it more shining and bright.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"When I go, I want my ashes scattered over the TV."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HELAT

CHITH

GREESY

RIGDIF



SOMETIMES THEY'RE A WOMAN'S ARCH ENEMIES.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

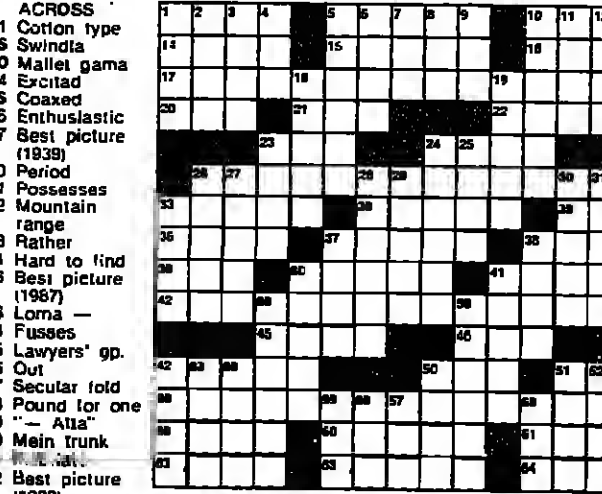
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FILMY JADED LOCKET BUBBLE

Answer: Might set off an explosion in the home — AN OLD FLAME

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



Power struggle turns Liberia into a tribal killing field

MONROVIA (R) — A battle for power between two men has turned Liberia into a tribal killing field.

With rebels pushing into Monrovia, frightened residents awake each day to find more corpses dumped in the streets.

Both the army of President Samuel Doe and Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front guerrillas run death squads exacting tribal vengeance.

The victims are mainly civilians. Some bodies have been mutilated — even beheaded — as a warning to others.

They nearly all come from one of the warring tribes — Gios and Manos for the rebels, and Doe's Krahn people and Mandingos for the government.

Diplomats estimate several thousand people have been killed since Taylor invaded the Gios stronghold of Nimba county in northeast Liberia in December with a motley band of 150 men and a handful of weapons.

Doe sent his Krahn-dominated troops to crush the rebels. They killed Gios instead and looted and burned their villages. This

rekindled tribal hatred still smouldering from revenge killings in 1985 after an abortive coup by Doe's right hand man, General Thomas Quiwonkpa, a Gios.

The army turned Nimba into a rebel recruiting ground and Taylor's guerrillas, clad in jeans, T-shirts and red headbands, have advanced into Monrovia's suburbs ready to attack Doe's fortified executive mansion.

As the rebels closed in the number of bodies washed up by the Atlantic breakers near the cliff-top mansion increased. Most were shot by the army and soldiers dug a mass grave on the shore.

The beach has been the army's favourite place of execution since Doe had 13 cabinet ministers of the civilian government beheaded in 1980 tied to posts there and shot by firing squad.

Three soldiers bundled a man out of a car on the beach on July 9. They shot him in the back with their U.S.-supplied M-16 automatic rifles in front of two journalists.

A day later the same trio grab-

bed high school student Junior Vea, 19, from in front of the U.S. embassy, drove him to the same stretch of beach and slit his throat.

The soldiers accused both their victims of being rebels. They told one man who saw them dumping the second body that the murder was in revenge for the killing of Krahn by rebels near the eastern suburb of Paynesville.

Similar killings have been carried out all over this besieged capital of half a million people which has been without fresh food, water, fuel, electricity and international communications for two weeks.

"People will not bury the bodies," said one Liberian as he stared at a headless corpse from a safe distance. "They are afraid of being linked to the rebels."

Doctors have warned Monrovia of the danger of a cholera outbreak. Diplomats from one Western embassy buried one corpse themselves on a beach outside their mission.

Doctors from the city's main John F. Kennedy Hospital tried

to find a bulldozer this week to bury 100 rotting corpses from its unrefrigerated mortuary. Nearly all had been shot.

The hospital has sent all its patients away because it has no power of water.

The sickly-sweet stench of death also lingers outside the city's last functioning hospital. It is run by Catholic missionaries with the help of Belgian surgeons from the medical relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders).

During the week they have operated on 50 people, mainly young civilian men, for bullet wounds.

The killing is far from one-sided. The rebels have also systematically hunted down Krahn and Mandingos, a Muslim tribe of traders and transporters who have prospered under Doe.

Reporters behind rebel lines said the guerrillas shot members of the Krahn tribe in the back and tossed their bodies into a river near Paynesville this week.

One Gios youth who has sought sanctuary in Monrovia has seen the slaughter by both sides.

2 Cubans leave embassy in Havana

PRAGUE (R) — Two of the 14 Cuban dissidents who sought refuge in the Czechoslovak embassy in Havana have left the premises, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

One left without informing Czechoslovak officials, but the other asked for and was granted permission to leave the embassy, a ministry statement said.

Czechoslovakia called on Cuba Friday to let the 14 leave the country. But it refused to give protection in the embassy to another five Cubans who the ministry said held the Czechoslovak charge d'affaires in Havana hostage for several hours Thursday.

Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, currently on a visit to Uruguay, said Friday he hoped the situation in the Havana embassy would be solved quickly and peacefully, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) reported.

Dienstbier told a news conference in Montevideo the dissidents had a right to travel freely and Czechoslovakia would not hand them over to Cuban authorities who insisted they leave the embassy unconditionally, CTK said.

Meanwhile, two young Cubans sought refuge at the Spanish embassy in Havana Friday, joining one Cuban already there and bringing to 22 the total number sheltering in foreign diplomatic missions in the Cuban capital.

A Spanish embassy spokesman told Reuters that the two asked for protection but did not seek political asylum.

He said the Spanish government did not recognise the right of asylum at its diplomatic missions but added: "We can't force them to leave."

2 bombs explode in S. Africa; one killed

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Two bombs exploded in Johannesburg early Saturday, one of them killing a waiter outside a hotel, police said.

The police suspect commercial explosive devices in both cases," police spokesman Lieutenant Peter du Preez said. No other casualties were reported.

The first blast ripped through an alleyway outside a hotel in a western suburb of Florida shortly after midnight, killing the waiter instantly.

About four hours later there was another explosion in the northern suburb Randburg. The South African Press Association said it was outside a house owned by a member of the right-wing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging Movement, Hans Francois Binoeman.

Du Preez said nobody had claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Jos dos Santos, a director of the Portuguese-owned Willy Smith Hotel rocked by the first blast, said he and about 130 other people were still in the bar when it occurred.

White pro-apartheid extremists, some calling themselves the White Wolves, have claimed responsibility for a string of terror attacks to protest at reforms by President F.W. de Klerk designed to dismantle apartheid race laws.

These included attacks on government offices, private homes of liberal politicians, a synagogue and the office of the black National Union of Mineworkers.

They included a blast at the office of a liberal Afrikaans newspaper which reported that white extremists planned to assassinate African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela, de Klerk and other politicians.

S.Korean TV networks hit by strike as assembly passes bills

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's broadcasting system was hit by a strike Saturday as the ruling party pushed through parliament a series of controversial bills despite angry protests from opposition members.

One of the 23 bills passed through the assembly's full session calls for the restructuring of the nation's broadcasting organisations, which unions say will curb press freedom.

Dozens of opposition lawmakers formed a human barrier in the main chamber of the National Assembly to prevent Speaker Park Chun-Kyu from taking the podium, witnesses said.

As scuffling erupted, Park's deputy Kim Jae-Kwang, protected by ruling party members, presided over the session in the aisle and quickly announced passage of the bills.

The chamber was filled with angry shouts and members of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) hurriedly left. "The days of the DLP's doom are nearing," one opposition member yelled.

The DLP, formed earlier this year after the merger of president Roh Tae-Woo's ruling party and two opposition groups, has more than a two-thirds majority in the 299-member house.

Thousands of union workers at state-run Korea Broadcasting

Sri Lanka rebels resume attacks on 6 army camps

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lankan Tamil separatist rebels launched fresh attacks on six army camps in the war-ravaged north Saturday and eight guerrillas and one soldier were killed, military sources said.

The rebels pounded the camps at Palaly, Kilinochchi, Elephant Pass, Mankulam, Kankesanthurai and the Jaffna Fort with mortars, grenades and machine gun fire Friday night and early Saturday morning, the source said.

Nearly 1,000 rebels, members of the security forces and civilians have died in five weeks of fierce fighting between government troops and Tamil minority guerrillas.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), battling for a separate state in the north and east of Sri Lanka, launched their offensive on June 11, abandoning 14 months of peace talks with the government.

On Friday, the separatists captured an army base in the north after four days of heavy fighting in which at least 45 soldiers and 50 rebels were killed, military sources said.

The base at Kokavil in Mullativu district was set up to protect a state television relay station that broadcast to Tamil areas in northern Sri Lanka and southern India.

Rebel mortars destroyed the television tower and set fire to a fuel dump.

The Tigers, in a statement issued from their London office, said 46 soldiers and 18 Tigers, including six women, were killed when a Tiger commando unit overran the camp.

Two vehicles of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) escorted 13 lorries loaded with food and medicine through areas of fighting in the north to Jaffna, an ICRC state-

ment said.

The supplies reached Jaffna Friday after a three-day journey and would be distributed to the civilian population of the northern peninsula, the statement said.

Residents of the north and east, where most Tamils live, have complained of shortages of food and medicine. The government has said it is making arrangements to send supplies with ICRC assistance.

The government, invoking emergency laws, has postponed elections to the northeast provincial council.

The council, one of the key elements in a plan to resolve the separatist rebellion by giving the Tamils more independence, was dissolved this month.

It had not been functioning since March after the majority of its members from rival Tamil groups, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, fled the country fearing reprisals by the Tigers.

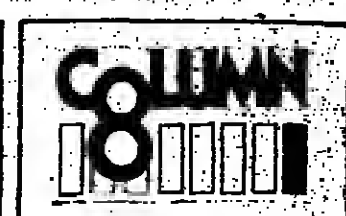
The governor of the northeast province, appointed by President Ranasinghe Premadasa, would administer the region until elections can be held, official sources said.

Meanwhile, a Tamil politician claimed Saturday that army soldiers have killed nearly 1,000 civilians in their monthlong war against rebels on the Tamil-dominated east coast.

Kandiah Premachandran said he appealed to Premadasa Friday to stop the bloodshed.

"Since the fighting began on June 11, we fear nearly 1,000 Tamil civilians, men, women and children have been deliberately massacred by the army in the east," he told the Associated Press.

"We have cross-checked our facts. We are 100 per cent certain," he added.



LA commuters back on track

LOS ANGELES (AP) — This smoggy, traffic-choked city inaugurates a \$10-billion effort to wean itself off the automobile Saturday when passengers are welcomed aboard new metro Blue Line trains between downtown and Long Beach. The 22-mile (35-kilometer) system, financed by a half-cent Los Angeles county sales tax approved by voters in 1980, actually is a reinvention of the old trolleys that covered the same route 90 years ago. But those trolleys became obsolete by 1961 in a city that had become hopelessly hooked on cars.

Although sleeker and faster than its predecessor, the Blue Line could be sidetracked by a 1990s problem. Many neighbourhoods along the 22-stop route are now infested by violent street gangs. The \$877-million line is the first part of a \$10-billion, 150-mile (241-kilometer) rail grid planned into the next century for Los Angeles, a city of 3,046,000 people ribboned by freeways so jammed the simplest commute can take an hour or more. The area generates some of the worst air pollution in the country. Included in that system is the \$1.3-billion metro rail subway, which suffered a setback Friday when fire ravaged a maintenance tunnel under construction. The first 4-mile (\$6.4-kilometer) segment was scheduled to open in 1993.

Stones cancel London concert

LONDON (R) — The Rolling Stones cancelled a sell-out rock concert in London Saturday because of an infection in guitarist Keith Richards' finger. Richards, who said his finger had swollen like a football, was earlier confident that the London concert would go ahead even though a performance in Cardiff, South Wales, was cancelled. But the group's spokeswoman Jane Sen said the show was called off after three doctors inspected Richards' finger, badly infected after he cut it on a guitar string. "Two physicians and a hand specialist have conferred and agreed it would not be advisable for him to play for the 'next couple of days,' she said. Saturday's London concert to 72,000 people has now been rescheduled to Aug. 24 and Sunday's to Aug. 25. On the Cardiff cancellation, Richards said: "It's the first show I've ever missed in 27 years. It's like I've blotted my copy book."

Passengers sleep as train is robbed

MARSEILLE (R) — Three gunmen robbed an overnight French mail train in southern France in a wild west-style holdup — without waking the passengers. Postal authorities said they jumped into the locomotive of the Nice-Irun Express as it pulled out of Marseille Thursday night and ordered the driver to stop in open country an hour later some 20 kilometres from Nimes. Without disturbing the sleeping passengers, the robbers quietly unloaded 39 sacks of mail and registered valuables from two mail cars into waiting vehicles and disappeared within 10 minutes. Authorities said the value of the haul may not be known for weeks.

Ugandans slow to change habits despite AIDS risk

KAMPALA (R) — Health workers are worried that Ugandans are slow to change their sexual habits amid an AIDS epidemic sweeping the East African state. Uganda, with over 12,000 confirmed AIDS cases, and about a million people carrying the HIV virus which is linked with AIDS, has adopted an intensive programme of education to stem the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The World Health Organisation and other U.N. agencies are supporting Uganda's efforts. But Dr. Sam Okware, director of Uganda's AIDS control programme, told Reuters in an interview: "If more people do not change their behaviour to lessen the risk of AIDS infection, it will be a long time before we see any results."

"Uganda is not the only place where people are slow to change their sexual behaviour." Parliament last month outlawed extramarital sex and prostitution and prescribed the death penalty or life imprisonment for rape. Sex education classes, with the emphasis on the AIDS risk, are incorporated in school lessons. An AIDS Information Centre in Kampala offers free AIDS tests which people planning to marry are encouraged to take.

Romania students to call fresh protests

BUCHAREST (R) — Organisers of Romania's biggest street protest since the December revolution vowed to call fresh demonstrations after the government rejected their demand for the release of a jailed student leader.

More than 50,000 people gathered outside government buildings in Bucharest Friday to urge the government to free Marian Munteanu and opposition activists.

But the National Salvation Front (NSF) government rejected their demand, saying it did not want to influence the legal process.

"We will carry on our protests. All students are united behind Munteanu's case," said engineer Mihai Murarescu said.

The government said it had set up an inquiry into three days of violence last month and its findings would be made public.

Six people were killed and hundreds injured in protests from June 13 to 15.

Mihai Gheorghin, vice-president of Bucharest University's Student League, addressed the rally in Victory Square and called on the government to observe fundamental human rights in Romania.

"Human rights in Romania should be on the same level as the

civilised world," he said. Students marching through Bucharest were joined by crowds of middle-aged people and couples with children. Hundreds of onlookers lining the streets cheered and waved flowers.

Protesters carried pictures of Munteanu and shouted "Judge the miners. The miners should be brought to court."

President Ion Iliescu thanked thousands of coal miners after they rampaged through Bucharest last month to crush anti-government protests. He said they had helped thwart an anti-fascist coup.

Miners beat demonstrators with coshes and pickaxes and ransacked opposition party offices.

Iliescu summoned the miners to the capital after students and other front opponents occupied University Square for seven weeks to protest at alleged Communist influence in the government, despite the December overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Munteanu has denied government accusations that he incited opposition riots in June. Students have accused the government of holding him as a political prisoner. They said in a

letter sent to government leaders: "Munteanu represents for Romanians the ideals for which they sacrificed themselves during the revolution of December."

Students played a leading role in the uprising and many of them were among the more than 1,000 people killed.

Meanwhile, former agents of the disbanded Securitate secret police, who sowed terror under Ceausescu, are to join Romania's new riot police and intelligence services, Defence Minister Victor Stanculescu said Friday.

Colonel-General Stanculescu said Securitate agents had been vetted at the Ministry of Defence and some had already been recruited for counter-intelligence.

"They are to carry out their duties in a peacekeeping role in the new gendarmerie and the intelligence service under the command of the Interior Ministry," Stanculescu told Reuters in an interview.

Iliescu called for a riot police force, or gendarmerie, to be set up after last month's political unrest, in which miners rampaged through Bucharest, beating up anti-government protesters.

Iliescu said Bucharest police and sections of the army were "psychologically incapable" of controlling the riots.

Colombia sees victory against drug cartel

BOGOTA (AP) — The chief of Colombia's secret police claimed in an interview that the battle against the Medellin drug cartel is being won.

The official, Gen. Miguel Maza Marquez, also predicted the government will soon nab the cartel's reputed leader, Pablo Escobar, and said the cartel's terrorist network has been broken.

"The Medellin cartel's breathing room has been reduced, and we now see some slipping at the very top, specifically with respect to the Ochoa family," Maza said in an interview published Friday in Bogota's El Tiempo newspaper.

The brothers Jorge Luis, Fabio and Juan David Ochoa have been considered Escobar's closest allies in running the cocaine

empire. Maza said the brothers have abandoned Escobar. The government has raised from \$400,000 to \$600,000 the reward for information leading to the capture of the enormously wealthy Escobar.

About 2,000 soldiers and policemen are hunting for Escobar in the northeastern region known as Magdalena Medio, using helicopters and land patrols.

Earlier in the week, police said they had Escobar surrounded, but he escaped into the jungle. It was the third time in a year Escobar had evaded a police dragnet.

Since the operation began six days ago, soldiers and troops have seized some 8,500 pounds (3,800 kilograms) of dynamite, assault rifles, sophisticated radio equipment and documents belonging to the Medellin cartel, and about 21 cartel employees were arrested, Maza said.

Meanwhile, police in the cartel's home base of Medellin Friday discovered a truck in a public parking lot loaded with about 450 pounds (200 kilograms) of dynamite.

Security forces deactivated the explosives, according to a Medellin police report. The police said the truck had been parked there for about two weeks.

So far this year, five powerful car bombs have exploded in Medellin, killing at least 60 people. Officials blamed the drug traffickers, who have been locked in an 11-month war against the government.

Strike emboldens Sandinistas in Nicaraguan power struggle

MANAGUA (AP) — Emboldened by their latest strike, the leftist Sandinistas appear more determined than ever to make good on their promise to "govern from below."

"This is just the beginning," the party newspaper Barricada vowed in an editorial, a feeling echoed less jubilantly by Nicaragua's private sector.

A 10-day strike ended Thursday, the second major walkout by public employees since President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and her conservative administration took office on April 25.

The strikes forced Chamorro to grant broad concessions on wages and job security for government employees and to put on hold plans to return Nicaragua to a free market economy.

They also deepened her estrangement with the private sector, once a cornerstone of support.

Gilberto Cuadra, head of the nation's leading business group, the Superior Council of Private Enterprise, said Chamorro's concessions will only encourage labour unrest.

"The campaign of strikes will continue," he said.

"The Sandinistas" are trying to govern behind the scenes. But the

reality is that they aren't governing nor are they allowing anyone else to govern," he said.

The latest strike culminated in four days of violence that claimed at least four lives. Paving-stone barricades fortified by burning tires and armed strikers paralysed the city. Gunfire crackled across the capital.

In the countryside, where the planting season was underway, farm workers struck, diminishing hopes for the bumper export crops upon which economic recovery depends.

At the same time, Chamorro came under attack from her own vice president, Virgilio Godoy, and the private sector. The president, they charged, was buckling under Sandinista pressure.

Faced with chaos in the streets, Chamorro settled the strike on leftist terms. And faced with revolt in the conservative ranks, she called for a dialogue on governing policy.

When the dust had settled, the Sandinistas were claiming victory.

"Workers have achieved ratification of union participation in the decisions that affect the economic life of the country," Barricada claimed.

Former President Daniel Ortega said bluntly.

"One must deal with Sandinismo, with the revolution, to have stability in this country," he said.

After Chamorro's landslide victory in Feb. 25 elections, Ortega vowed that the Sandinistas would "govern from below" to block any attempt to dismantle more than a decade of revolutionary policy.

Chamorro's conservative economic recovery plan is much criticised on the left. She has said she plans to privatise state-owned businesses and return farmland confiscated after the 1979 revolution while trimming the 65,000-person state payroll.

Most of those plans have been altered by the concessions made in the two strikes.

The president's advisors blame the Sandinistas for planting the seeds of crisis in the two months between their election loss and Chamorro's inauguration on April 25.

The Sandinistas armed tens of thousands of people, urging them to "defend the conquests of the revolution."

U.K. minister may quit over anti-German remarks

LONDON (R) — Nicholas Ridley, a close cabinet ally of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who enraged Britain's European partners with a scathing attack on West Germany, faced growing demands Saturday to resign quickly.

The trade and industry minister stoked a political storm over an interview published in the right-leaning Spectator magazine in which he said Germany was out to take over Europe and that giving up sovereignty to the European Community would be like surrendering to Hitler.

Ridley, who also said the French were behaving like the German poodles, withdrew the remarks before returning to London from a visit to Hungary Friday night. But colleagues in the ruling Conservative Party and political opponents piled on the pressure for him to quit soon to avoid further embarrassment.

The Daily Telegraph, known to reflect the views of prominent Conservatives, said although Thatcher signalled she would leave the decision to him, a limited cabinet reshuffle was expected by Monday at the latest.

But two popular newspapers reported that Ridley had a huge groundswell of support among voters.

The Daily Express, in a phone-

in to more than 15,000 people, found that 97 per cent backed him while the Daily Star had 94 per cent saying Ridley was "right to blitz the Germans."

Conservative Member of Parliament John Carlisle said: "Mr. Ridley's view is shared by millions of British citizens."

"I am not prepared to stand aside and see my country reduced to the lap-dog of Europe, and nor is Mr. Ridley, and that is why I fully support his views."

The big question was when Ridley would see Thatcher.

"As far as I understand it, Mrs. Thatcher has no plans to see him tonight and he is not going to Chequers (Thatcher's country residence)," said a spokeswoman for Ridley who was whisked away from Heathrow Airport in a West German BMW limousine.

But the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail said a weekend meeting was planned.

The 61-year-old son of a vicar, Ridley's sarcastic style and indifference to criticism has made supporters cringe and his opponents fume. But influential party colleagues were doubtful he could ride out this storm.

Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of the Conservatives' influential 1992 committee, told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio Ridley's position was very

bad and that he expected "an important announcement will be made very shortly."

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, in comments, seen as repudiating Ridley's remarks, said Friday: "Our alliance, our partnership and our friendship with France and Germany lie at the heart of modern British foreign policy."

But one of Ridley's cabinet colleagues, Agriculture Minister John Gummer appeared to heap more fuel on the political row by accusing West Germans and other Europeans of eating dirty food.

"Other countries have sickness while we have scars," Gummer told a London dinner Friday to promote supermarket food. "I am the only minister in the European Community who raises issues of food safety."

Opposition politicians said Thatcher needed to make her position clear on Europe. She refused to make any comment about Ridley's future Friday as she strolled around a London carnival — and heard two musicians strike up the West German and French national anthems.

"With this indecision following on top of the Ridley insults, her inaction signifies an astonishing abdication of responsibility that

will make Britain the subject of, at best, ridicule, and at worst, hostility throughout Europe," said Gordon Brown of the opposition Labour Party.

Meanwhile, France's leading daily Le Monde said Friday many Britons share the anti-German views of Ridley.

French ministers and officials have so far made no comment on Ridley's interview.

Le Monde said in a front-page editorial Ridley proved "one can be born an aristocrat without ever becoming a gentleman."

Le Monde said it feared that Thatcher's failure to summarily sack him showed that even she shared his anti-German and anti-European views.

"Forty-five years after the defeat of Nazism, she detests the vision of a Europe dominated by a German giant with an insolently prosperous economy."

Unlike the French, Britain had never really turned the page on the painful past, it said, adding: "Primal anti-German sentiment is always quick to resurface on the other side of the channel, sustained by the popular press with caricatures and chauvinist stereotypes of Germans as arrogant and bellicose beer guzzlers."